



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta
Clár Cúraim Pobail Feabhsaithe &
Conarthaí Príomhchúraim
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
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14th June, 2022.

Deputy Duncan Smith,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

NCO ref: S0017-NCO-22

PQ 22514/22: To ask the Minister for Health the number of general practitioners providing vasectomy services through GMS contracts across all CHOs for each year for 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Duncan Smith

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PQ 22515/22: To ask the Minister for Health if he has concerns regarding the provision of vasectomy services through GMS contracts in terms of capacity and following recent retirements of general practitioners providing the service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Duncan Smith

Dear Deputy Smith,

I refer to your recent parliamentary questions which were passed to the HSE for response.

Please find below details on the number of general practitioners providing vasectomy services across all CHOs for each year for 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, which have not varied significantly over the past number of years.

| Services by CHO Area | | | | | | |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| CHO | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 5 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 8&1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 18 |



The development of a standard contract for the provision of vasectomy services is a component of the HSE streamlining and coordination agenda in line with the “GP Agreement 2019”. In the meantime, as an interim measure, areas can utilise the HSE’s National Service Arrangement documentation with schedules particularised to the service in question thereby bringing to bear some degree of standardisation in approach and moving in a meaningful way towards compliance with HSE’s governance framework for service arrangements with external service providers.

The HSE is working closely with the IMO and ICGP to support general practice and a range of measures have been implemented to date. The implementation of the GP Agreement 2019 provides for the introduction of significant enhancements to contractual arrangements in place with GPs. In addition , by July of this year the intake of GP trainees over the period 2020-2022 will have increased by 66, bringing the overall total of trainee places in 2022 to 259.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Crowley', is positioned above the printed name.

**Geraldine Crowley,
Assistant National Director,
Enhanced Community Care Programme &
Primary Care Contracts**