



07 December 2022

Deputy Eoin Ó Broin
eoin.obroin@oireachtas.ie

Our Ref: HM/Communications

PQ59633/22: To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that persons seeking cervical screening from CervicalCheck centres are being refused appointments if they are not registered patients of the GP surgery in which the screening is taking place; if this is correct given that CervicalCheck advise via their website that people do not have to be a registered patient of a surgery in order to obtain cervical screening in a centre; if he will provide an explanation for the discrepancy in information; and if he will outline the correct process through which persons can obtain cervical screening in the case that their own GP surgery does not provide the service.

Dear Deputy,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question.

This is an issue that happens sporadically and when we are made aware we speak to the practice directly to remind them of their contractual obligations. We are aware that seasonal pressures on GP services may at times limit their capacity to screen, and that people who are seeking to book screening appointments may be asked to wait a few weeks for their appointment or call back. A cervical screening test is not an urgent test so women can be reassured that they do not need an urgent appointment.

We are reminding practices through our cervical screening healthcare professional newsletter that women do not need to be a patient of a particular GP or clinic to have their screening test taken at their premises.

We are asking women whose screening appointments are due to continue to keep in contact with their GP or clinic and to accept a booking as soon as it is offered. They can go for screening to any of our registered providers, a list of CervicalCheck screening providers is available on www.hse.ie/cervicalcheck

If any woman has a query in relation to their own cervical screening test, we ask that they please email info@cervicalcheck.ie with their name, address, DOB and PPSN to enable us to look further into their case.

We continue to emphasise the importance of being symptom aware for all of our screening services. We encourage anyone with symptoms to contact their GP who will give them appropriate advice on follow-up care.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,





An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service

Fiona Murphy,
Chief Executive.

Teach Óstaí an Rí, 200 Sráid Parnell, Baile Átha Cliath D01 A3Y8. King's Inn House, 200 Parnell Street, Dublin 1, D01 A3Y8.
☎ 353 1 865 9300 ✉ info@screeningservice.ie www.screeningservice.ie



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service

