



Oifig um Cheannasaí Seirbhíse do Chúram Príomhúil
Cúram Sláinte Phobail FSS an Mheán Iarthair
Ascaill Bhaile Choimín,
Páirc Gnó an Ráithín, Ráithín
Luimneach
Teil: 061 483722

Office of the Head of Service for Primary Care
HSE Mid West Community Healthcare
Ballycummin Ave, Raheen Business Park, Raheen,
Limerick
Tel: 061 483722

20th October 2022

Deputy Willie O’Dea
2 Glenview Gardens
Farranshone
Limerick

Re: PO 49197/22 – “To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that therapeutic venesection is not being provided in the Mid West; when this vital and normal service will be provided in the Mid West for patients suffering from Haemochromatosis and who are currently iron-overloaded, which is endangering their health; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy O’Dea,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Firstly, I must advise that I can only provide you with a response regarding the provision of General Practitioner (GP) services for medical card holders (General Medical Services (GMS) patients) in the HSE Mid West area (CHO3). The Primary Care Unit Manager has confirmed that Therapeutic Venesection is a specialised procedure and it must be carried out in an allocated space within the General Practitioner (GP) surgery/practice as it can take 30-40 minutes to complete and a Nurse must be available to observe the patient after the procedure.

The Primary Care Unit Manager has advised that the provision of Therapeutic Venesection is not covered under the GMS Contract (the contract signed by a GP and the HSE for the provision of GP services to medical card holders), but, if a GP performs this procedure for a GMS patient he/she can submit a claim for this service directly to the Primary Care Reimbursement Services (PCRS) (a session can cost between €80 - €100).

The Primary Care Unit Manager also advised that she is aware that some GPs provide this service in the Mid West area, but as it does not fall under the remit of the GMS Contract, she is not aware of which GPs are providing this service in CHO3.

I understand that this service is provided by UL Hospitals Group on an Outpatient basis in CHO3.

I trust this information addresses the issues raised in your representation.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Costello
Head of Service, Primary Care