



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

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DATE: 08.11.2022

**Deputy Malcolm Noonan,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

PQ Reference 53076/22: To ask the Minister for Health the steps that are being taken to move the HSE adult optical scheme authorisation process online; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Malcolm Noonan

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The process to deliver online approval for Adult Optical is currently in the development and user testing phase. This project is included in the HSE PCRS Operational Plan and resources are allocated on a planned priority basis. As critical items arise however, resources may need to be diverted where necessary, for example Women's Health Initiative and support to co-administer influenza and Covid-19 vaccinations into Covax.

Once the development is ready we will engage with a number of contractors and local HSE offices, who have expressed an interest in participating in a pilot to introduce the online services. This will afford the opportunity for shared learning and allow for enhancements to the online facility to the benefit all parties. The online service will enable contractors to apply for prior approval online, enabling patients to receive treatment in a more timely fashion. With the introduction of Online Approvals the contractor will be linked to the local HSE office who can authorise treatment using the online service.

The projected planned date for pilot rollout is expected to be Q2 2023.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations