



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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3rd September 2022

**Deputy Mairéad Farrell,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

PQ 45541/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the way in which general practitioners will be upskilled to support long-Covid patients; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Mairéad Farrell

Dear Deputy Farrell,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 45541/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE recognises the need to provide follow up care and support for patients experiencing prolonged signs and symptoms of Covid-19. In response to this it has developed an Interim Model Of Care (MoC) for Long Covid which was finalised in September 2021. The aim of the MoC is to provide a national approach to the provision of services and supports for patients experiencing prolonged symptoms of Covid-19. It sets out a framework for the provision of these services and supports spanning General Practice, Community Services, Acute Hospitals and Mental Health Services.

As part of the implementation of the Model of Care, the HSE has engaged with the Irish College of General Practitioners and other professional bodies. Through this engagement it has identified the opportunity to provide further education and training in relation to the management of Long COVID, including when and how to refer patients to specialist services. The HSE is currently liaising with the Irish College of General Practitioners regarding how future training and education can be optimally designed and delivered.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations