



Dearadh agus Nuálaíocht Chliniciúil; Oifig an Príohoifigeach Cliniciúil  
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens, D08 W2A8  
R: [clinicaldesign@hse.ie](mailto:clinicaldesign@hse.ie)

Clinical Design & Innovation; Office of the Chief Clinical Officer  
Dr Steevens' Hospital, D08 W2A8  
E: [clinicaldesign@hse.ie](mailto:clinicaldesign@hse.ie)

17<sup>th</sup> February, 2023

Deputy Verona Murphy, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**RE: PQ 3455/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health the specific training that is available to general practitioners for the identification and treatment of Lyme disease; the awareness campaigns that will be in place for 2023 in regard to Lyme disease; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Murphy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme for Infectious Diseases (NCPID) and the National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead, Primary Care (NCAGL PC) on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Training of General Practitioners (GPs) for the identification and treatment of Lyme disease is a matter for the Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP).

Lyme disease is a tick-borne infection and is relatively rare, with estimations that a small proportion of people in Ireland are infected (<5%). The infection is known to be endemic in certain locations. In these areas, GPs are familiar with the most typical presentation, which is a rash, often with a bull's eye appearance. More complicated cases require referral to infectious diseases clinics.

Patients with post-Lyme syndrome can be referred by their GP to a public hospital infectious diseases clinic in Ireland. Treatment is in line with national and international best practice guidelines, as outlined in Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) guidelines<sup>1</sup> that have been endorsed by the Infectious Diseases Society of Ireland (IDSI)<sup>2</sup>.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

---

**Anne Horgan**  
General Manager

## References:

1. Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)  
<http://www.idsociety.org/>  
<https://www.idsociety.org/practice-guideline/lyme-disease/>
2. Infectious Diseases Society of Ireland (IDSI) - <https://www.idsociety.ie/about-the-idsi/links>