



**Oifig an Stiúirthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta
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**Deputy Paul Donnelly
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.**

11th July 2023

PQ 32094/23

To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the cancellation of a national contract that will make vasectomies no longer available on a medical card in seven counties including north County Dublin.

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

I refer to your parliamentary question, which was passed to the HSE for response.

The development of a standard contract for the provision of vasectomy services is a component of the HSE streamlining and coordination agenda in line with the "GP Agreement 2019". The HSE is working closely with the IMO and ICGP to support general practice and a range of measures have been implemented to date. The implementation of the GP Agreement 2019 provides for the introduction of significant enhancements to contractual arrangements in place with GPs.

The provision of a Vasectomy service for men is not one of the special items of service provided for under the GMS contract with GPs. Hence local arrangements have been put in place in some areas throughout the country but this is not universal nor are the arrangements standardised.

In relation to the ongoing service provision in the impacted areas, Community Operations have advised that in CHO 6, there are currently 2 active providers of vasectomy services. In CHO 7 discussions are taking place in relation to the funding of services and in CHO 9, the management and issuing of vasectomy contracts is under the remit of Men's Health / Health & Wellbeing. It is understood that there are currently no GPs in this area who hold a vasectomy contract to provide services to GMS patients.

I hope the above is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Geraldine Crowley,
Assistant National Director,
Enhanced Community Care Programme &
Primary Care Contracts**