



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroibríochtaí

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Deputy Joan Collins
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

27th March 2024

PQ 46823/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the reason laboratory services are unable to cope with important routine blood testing; and if phlebotomy services are temporarily closing in other hospitals (details supplied). -Joan Collins

Details supplied: Patients who have been attending St James' Hospital walk in Phlebotomy have been advised that "due to a surge in demand for laboratory services it is regrettable that effective from Monday the 25th of September '23 we will be temporarily closing our Swiftqueue Phlebotomy GP service for routine appointments" To ask the Minister is tis happening in any other Hospital and why are Laboratory services unable to cope with important routine blood testing?

Dear Deputy Collins,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Demand for pathology services has increased steadily over the last number of years across both Acute and Community settings. Blood test requests are referred from both Acute and Community settings.

The continued increase in demand is affecting available capacity in the system and can impact waiting times for tests to be carried out. The availability of clinical staff such as medical scientists also impacts on processing times and timeframes for the turnaround of phlebotomy results.

Acute Operations contacted South/SouthWest Hospital Group (SSWHG), Ireland East Hospital Group (IEHG), RCSI Hospital Group, Dublin Midlands Hospital Group, (DMHG), University of Limerick Hospital Group (ULHG), Saolta Hospital Group and Children's Health Ireland (CHI) in order to response to your question.

Please see the responses received from the Hospital Groups on the included Excel file.

I trust this is of assistance to you

Yours sincerely,

Nessa Lynch
General Manager
Acute Operations