



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta
Clár Cúraim Pobail Feabhsaithe &
Conarthaí Príomhchúraim
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte

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**Deputy Danny Healy Rae,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.**

4th October 2023

PQ38216/23– To ask the Minister for Health the reason GPs are refusing to do blood tests requested for individuals supported by CAMHS; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Danny Healy-Rae

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

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

Under the GMS Contract Medical Practitioners shall provide eligible patients with "all proper and necessary treatment of a kind usually undertaken by a general practitioner and not requiring special skill or experience of a degree or kind which general practitioners cannot reasonably be expected to possess". Routine blood tests, which are deemed clinically necessary by the GP are comprehended by this scope of service. It is of course a matter for the treating GP to determine in the case of each individual patient what is proper and necessary care. The position of the Department of Health and the HSE is that routine blood tests in primary care are covered under this element of the GMS Contract; separately the Acute Hospital system also provides for phlebotomy services for patients who have been referred by GPs or through Emergency Departments.

It is recognised that over recent years there has been an increasing requirement for phlebotomy services in the primary care setting arising principally from advancements in health technologies and including clinical care pathways typically associated with hospital/specialty initiated treatment and in this instance it appears that the blood tests required fall outside what could reasonably be considered routine phlebotomy.

The HSE continues to deal with complaints from GMS patients on a case by case basis and will, where appropriate, arrange for a refund of charges incorrectly applied by the GP and re-coup the value of same from payments due to the GP under the relevant GMS Contract. If a GMS patient holds a medical card or GP visit card believes and believes that he/she has been incorrectly charged for routine Phlebotomy services, he/she can make a complaint to the HSE local office who will deal with the matter.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

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