



**Oifig an Stiúrthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta
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**Deputy Matt Carthy
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.**

20th October 2023

PQ 39631/23

To ask the Minister for Health the geographical areas in which it is not possible for medical card holders to get free access to vasectomies; if he will resolve this situation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Matt Carthy

Dear Deputy Carthy,

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. These services are available to men in CHOs 2, 3,4,5,6 & 8.

In relation to the geographical areas where vasectomy services are not available to medical card holders, these include CHOs 1, 7 & 9. Community Operations have advised that in CHO 7 discussions are taking place in relation to the funding of services. It is understood that there are currently no GPs in CHOs 1 & 9 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**