



Office of the Head of Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare
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28th September 2023

Mr. Paul Kehoe TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 41090/23

To ask the Minister for Health the reason that several MRI scans (Alliance Medical; MRI Brain, MRI IAMs, MRI Brain IAM's, MRI Pituitary Contrast, MRI Lumber Spine, MRI Lumbosacral Spine, MRI SIJ's, MRI Thoracic Spine to include Thoracolumbar, MRI Hip, MRI Knee, MRI Shoulder, MRI Bony Pelvis, MRI Pelvis Hips, MRI Cervical Spine to include Cervicothoracic) are no longer covered on CHO5 or medical card in Wexford MRI unit, operated by a healthcare provider; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Paul Kehoe

Dear Deputy Kehoe,

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

I have examined the matter and the following response outlines the current position.

All GP's in the South East can refer patients (both private and public) full population aged 16 years and over for MRI scans to third party providers. Referrals for an MRI is made through Healthlink using the General Referral form which can be accessed via Healthlink Web Portal or via a Practice Management Software.

There are three private providers in the South East Community Healthcare area – Affidea, Alliance and UPMC.

I am not aware of any difficulties at present in accessing the service in Wexford. Eligibility for patients based on medical card status applies to Ultrasounds only.

If there is a particular case that requires follow-up you can submit the details to the Primary Care Unit in Lacken, Kilkenny and this will be followed up.

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

Yours sincerely,

Anna Marie Lanigan
Head of Service-Primary Care/Assistant National Director
South East Community Healthcare