

**Deputy Claire Kerrane,  
Houses of the Oireachtas,  
Kildare St.,  
Dublin 2.**

6<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**PQ Number:** 9830/24  
**PQ Question:** *'To ask the Minister for Health the reason a service (details supplied) is unavailable under the medical card scheme at a local hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter'*

*MRI on feet at Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway*

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Dear Deputy Kerrane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above parliamentary question.

Public MRI referrals from General Practitioners are via the HSE's General Practitioner Access to Community Diagnostics Scheme. This is a national scheme, however, some scan areas are not provided for under this scheme and therefore not covered by a medical card.

**Information relating to the GP scheme is available at:**

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/primarycare/community-healthcare-networks/gp-diagnostics/>

Public MRI referrals from consultants are covered by a medical card outside of the above GP scheme.

I trust that this clarifies the situation.

Yours sincerely,



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**Mr. James Keane**  
General Manager