



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta
Clár Cúraim Pobail Feabhsaithe &
Conarthaí Príomhchúraim
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
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Deputy Patricia Ryan,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

16th July, 2024

PQ 22018/24: To ask the Minister for Health if being put on a waiting list for a GP practice would qualify as a refusal (details supplied); and if not, the reason as the applicant is still without a GP until the practice accepts them from the waiting list, which could take considerable time.

Dear Deputy Ryan,

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

Should an applicant be unable to get acceptance on to the GMS panel of a General Practitioner (GP) of their choice, they can notify the PCRS Eligibility Unit accordingly, indicating that they have applied to three GPs in their locality and the three GPs are unable to accept them.

Once consideration of the new application determines that the grant of eligibility is appropriate, the Eligibility Unit can then assign the applicant (and dependents, if applicable) to a GP, within their local area.

Should a person with current eligibility wish to change their GP, the change of GP option is available to individuals with current eligibility who have obtained acceptance on to the GMS panel of a GP of their choice. The Eligibility Unit will require a completed change of GP form including the GP signature and stamp to enable update to eligibility records.

Change of GP Forms can be located by following the link below https://assets.hse.ie/media/documents/Medical_Card_or_GP_Visit_Card_change_of_GP_Form.pdf. All completed forms should be returned via email to NMCU.COD@hse.ie or by post to the Client Registration Unit, PO Box 11745, Finglas, Dublin 11.

In line with the 2023 GP Agreement, the eligibility of Doctor Only Visit Cards has now been extended to individuals and families whose annual reckonable earnings do not exceed the median income and to all children aged between 6 and 7 years (inclusive). PCRS continue to operate a patient assignment process, in line with the 2023 GP agreement, and in consultation (where appropriate) with local offices.

In addition, it is important to note that the HSE continues to review the operation of the patient assignment protocol, in conjunction with the IMO, with a view to ensuring that it is framed and operating in a fair, equitable, patient and GP centred manner and that due regard is being had to health and safety considerations relating to GP practice teams in terms of how it is being operationalised.



I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Crowley', with a horizontal line underneath.

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