



Oifig an Stiúrthoir Cúnta,
Cúram Priomhúil Rochtain agus Comhthathú,

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
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8th May 2025

Deputy Kerrane,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 19739/25 To ask the Minister for Health the number of primary care centres where intravitreal injections for age-related macular degeneration currently take place; the timeline associated with moving all remaining injections out of acute settings and into the community; the progress to date on implementing this recommendation from the 2018 Eye Services Review; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

- Claire Kerrane

Dear Deputy Kerrane,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 19739/25) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE has been implementing multidisciplinary community-based Integrated Eye Care teams. These teams facilitate assessment, prioritisation, diagnoses, management and treatment. In some cases, they also provide pre-op/post-op care, enabling most patients to be seen in their own locality. When required, referral of patients onwards for specialist input also is part of the model.

To facilitate this integrated eye care teams, led by Consultant Medical Ophthalmologists and including optometrists, orthoptists, nurses and technicians have been established in primary care centres that are appropriately equipped. In 2024 there were 108,641 patients seen in Ophthalmology services in the community.

The delivery of intravitreal injections requires both clinicians with the competency and expertise to deliver the service, together with a number of specific facility requirements. These include injection clean rooms, appropriate pharmaceutical supports and IT link with the appropriate surgical site so that review of scans can be undertaken as required across sites. The range of enablers required to support the delivery of a safe intravitreal injection service while progressing has not been established in any community setting as yet.

I trust this is of assistance.

Seán McArt

General Manager
Primary Care Access & Integration