



15th July 2025

Ms Grace Boland, T.D.
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Email: grace.boland@oireachtas.ie

PQ 36490/25 – “To ask the Minister for Health in view of the requirement for a GP referral to access services at the Balbriggan Primary Care Centre, the specific measures her Department is taking to improve access to services at the centre, particularly for patients facing barriers to GP access; and if she will make a statement on the matter” – **Grace Boland TD**

Clarification received: What services are provided in Balbriggan Primary Care Centre that require a GP referral letter and those that don't in order to access the services.
- **Grace Boland TD**

Dear Deputy Boland,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted for response. I examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Balbriggan Primary Care Centre is located in HSE Integrated Health Area Dublin North County (IHA DNC) and delivers a variety of integrated care services to meet the health needs of the local population. While the majority of Primary Care services accept referrals from a range of sources, including self-referrals, a limited number operate exclusively on a general practitioner (GP) referral basis. These services include:

- Nursing – clinical referrals. A GP referral is required if clinical intervention is needed – including among others. injections, dressings, medication administration
- Physiotherapy Adult Service – The service is operating priority for clinical need within current resources based on referrals.

The demand for some services exceeds the clinical staff resources required to at this time. We are actively engaged in efforts to fill vacant posts acknowledging the essential role Primary Care professionals play in supporting community health. However, recruitment remains challenging due to a range of contributing factors including more posts available than professionals qualified to fill the posts.

In cases where access to a GP may be unavailable and there is a need for Physiotherapy intervention, the following options may be considered by the service:

- Referral from another member of the Primary Care Team who is already involved in their care (e.g. Public Health Nurse, Occupational Therapist)
- Staff will support and assist the service user to source and register with a GP
- In exceptional circumstances, where there is an urgent clinical need and no GP is available, a self-referral may be escalated for consideration by the Physiotherapy Manager for individual review to determine if the service can be provided, ensuring governance and clinical risk management.

I trust this information clarifies your query.

Yours sincerely,

Gonne Barry
A/General Manager Primary Care
Dublin North County