



Príomhoifigeach Cliniciúil  
Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Cliniciúil

Ospidéal Dr Steevens, Lána Steevens  
Baile Átha Cliath 8, D08 W2A8

Chief Clinical Officer  
Office of the Chief Clinical Officer

Dr Steevens Hospital, Steevens Lane  
Dublin 8, D08 W2A8

[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)  
[@hselive](mailto:@hselive)

t 01 635 2000  
e [cco@hse.ie](mailto:cco@hse.ie)

#### BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Barry Heneghan  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

24<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**PQ 30733/25- To ask the Minister for Health if she will consider introducing a system to allow doctors to review routine blood test results remotely and, where appropriate, issue prescriptions and follow-up advice by phone or post for stable patients with chronic conditions, in order to reduce unnecessary in-person appointments; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Heneghan,

Thank you for your representation.

Laboratory results to General Practitioners are issued electronically so that GPs can view the results of tests they requested on their patients in their practice promptly after they are issued by the laboratory. Laboratory results to hospital-based practitioners can be viewed promptly on patients under their care on the hospital systems for viewing patient's records. There are also facilities in many hospitals to provide appropriate staff with secure remote access on HSE provided portable devices to hospital systems on which they can view laboratory results. These existing systems represent significant progress in recent years. There is a need to make further improvements. The HSE Strategic Plan for Laboratory Services 2026-2035 includes a recommendation of "access to all patient results wherever the patient attends for care". The continued roll out of the national laboratory information system is an important enabler of this.

The HSE is also working to implement a National Shared Care Record ( <https://www.ehealthireland.ie/technology-and-transformation-functions/standards-and-shared-care-records-sscr/national-shared-care-record/> ) that will facilitate access to patient's results wherever they attend for care. In relation to prescriptions, these can already be provided through secure email and via post. The decision to issue a prescription in this way in each case is dependent on the principles of safe care.

Access to all of a patient's laboratory results wherever they attend for care will enhance the ability to make the best care decisions with avoidance of unnecessary in person appointments. The HSE is also planning for implementation of a single national Electronic Patient Record. This will allow doctors to view all records including previous decisions, blood tests, x-rays and scans. The EHR will also include systems for prescribing and dispensing of medicines.

In summary there has been significant progress on this in recent years and further improvements are planned to enhance the ability to make the best care decision wherever the patient attends for care.

I hope this provides you with some assistance.



Yours sincerely

Sharon Hayden  
General Manager  
Office of the Chief Clinical Officer