



Ceann Seirbhíse, Cúraim Príomhúil
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Cabhán Dún na nGall
Liatroim Muineachán, Sligeach
An Clochar, Sráid an Choláiste, Béal Átha
Seanaidh, Co Dhun na nGall, F94 TPX4

Head of Service, Primary Care
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23rd February 2024

Pearse Doherty T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
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Dublin 2

PQ ref. 54247/23 To ask the Minister for Health if ophthalmology patients with age-related macular degeneration living in Donegal and travelling to Sligo for regular eye injections can have such injections at Letterkenny University Hospital; if not, if this is being considered; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Doherty

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position in Community Healthcare Cavan Donegal Leitrim Monaghan and Sligo.

Currently, patients living in Donegal, who require eye injections for macular degeneration, are triaged in Donegal by the Primary Care Ophthalmology Medical Team. They are then scheduled for treatment in Sligo, due to capacity constraints in Donegal.

However, each case is assessed on its own merits and where possible, arrangements are made for the treatment to be provided in Donegal.

The Primary Care Ophthalmology Service Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal is currently preparing a submission, seeking approval for the recruitment of a second Ophthalmology Consultant in Donegal. If approval for the second Consultant post is granted, it is envisaged that all Donegal patients requiring eye injections for macular degeneration will receive their treatment in Donegal.

It is worth noting that eye injections for all diabetic retina patients are provided in Donegal. Since November 2023, no Donegal patient in this cohort has had to travel to Sligo for treatment. I also wish to advise a new eye injection suite forms part of the plan for the next phase of development at St. Conal's Hospital, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mandy Doyle
Head Of Service Primary Care CHO1
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An Cabhán, Muineachán, Sligeach, Liatroim & Dún na nGall

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