



12/04/2024

Deputy Patricia Ryan
Dáil Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 51555/23

To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on primary healthcare nursing staff levels and numbers of patients covered, including public health nurses, in the south Kildare area, with particular emphasis on rural areas, the distances required to be covered by each PHN, and the individual PHN's ability to attend to rural patients; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ryan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for a response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Health Service Executive can confirm that the Public Health Nursing (PHN) Service based in South Kildare Athy & Baltinglass Castledermot & Dunlavin, provides person-centred community nursing care across a patient's lifespan. This includes children from birth, mothers, hospital discharges, patients with disabilities, and older persons. The PHN will attend to patients in both urban and rural areas in this district. The services are provided between both the Health Care Centres and domiciliary visits. The distance the PHN must travel can vary depending on the address of the patient. Clients are aligned to the PHN Services in the closest proximity to their home address.

There may be exceptions where cross-cover is in place due to staffing pressures. The PHN will contact and if appropriate attend to all clients on receipt of a discharge or referral from a hospital, GP, or allied health professional. There can be occasions where patients are required to attend a Primary Care Centre or Health Centre for dressing clinics etc. Please see below the staffing for the Primary Care Centre/Health Centre in South Kildare.

Data as of 10/04/2024

Athy Primary Care Centre	3 WTE PHN	2.8 WTE Community RGN
Castledermot Health Centre	1 WTE PHN	1 WTE Community RGN
Baltinglass Primary Care Centre	2 WTE PHN	0.5 WTE Community RGN
Dunlavin Health Centre	1 WTE PHN	0.8 WTE Community RGN

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

Yours sincerely,

Brian Kearney
Head of Primary Care
Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow Community Healthcare