



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta  
Clár Cúraim Pobail Feabhsaithe &  
Conarthaí Príomhchúraim  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte

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**Deputy Violet-Anne Wynne,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.**

**16<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**PQ 33042/24: To ask the Minister for Health the plans to ensure that GPs have suitably fast access to diagnostics equivalent to those in acute settings; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Violet-Anne Wynne**

Dear Deputy Wynne,

I refer to your parliamentary question, which was passed to the HSE for response. All GPs nationally have direct access to diagnostic imaging and diagnostic tests through the GP Access to Community Diagnostics Scheme, which is an integral component of the Enhanced Community Care programme.

The initiative enables direct access to X-ray, CT, MRI, and DEXA for the full adult population over 16. The scheme builds on pathways already in place for GP direct access to Community Ultrasound. The scheme commenced in January 2021, delivering 139k scans in 2021, 253k scans in 2022, and 350k in 2023. The scheme aims to provide urgent scans within one month of referral and routine scans within three months of referral.

Direct GP access to Echocardiography and Spirometry enhances the diagnosis and management of individuals with heart failure, COPD, and asthma to support early diagnosis and proactive management of individuals living with such chronic conditions in the community. GPs will have direct access to Echocardiography and Spirometry nationally (on a phased basis) via public hospitals or the local Chronic Disease Community Specialist Team. The echocardiography and spirometry services are available to all adults (Patients aged >16 years) regardless of their GMS status (public or private patient).

More comprehensive information on the schemes can be found [HERE](#).

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

**Geraldine Crowley,  
Assistant National Director,  
Enhanced Community Care Programme &  
Primary Care Contracts**