



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
um Rochtain agus Imeascadh

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4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas, An
Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile Átha
Cliath 8, D08 NN9V

Unit 4a, the Dargan Building, Heuston
South Quarter, Military Road,
Kilmainham, Dublin 8, D08 NN9V

Tel 01 795 9972

Email

accessandintegration@hse.ie

Date: 04/11 /2024

Deputy Gary Gannon TD

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

PQ44244/24

To ask the Minister for Health given the urgent need for improved healthcare resources for patients with amyloidosis in Ireland, including access to the serum amyloid P component (SAP) scan, to outline what steps are being taken to make this scan available in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Gannon,

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

Response:

Amyloidosis is a rare disease and covers a group of conditions that occurs when a protein called amyloid builds up in organs, almost every organ can be affected. There are many types of amyloidosis but the two most frequent forms are AL and ATTR which often affect the nerves, heart and kidneys. Amyloidosis can lead to severe end-organ sequelae (heart failure, dialysis, neuropathy leading to immobility) and death. Patients are referred to the UK National Amyloidosis Centre via the Treatment Abroad Scheme to confirm diagnosis and guide treatment. Serum Amyloid P (SAP) scans can be helpful in diagnosis and monitoring response to treatment in certain



circumstances, usually in relation to AL amyloidosis; however, other imaging modalities are currently in development and will likely supersede SAP scans.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Emma Benton'.

Emma Benton

General Manager

Access & Integration