



25th October 2024

Deputy Brendan Griffin, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 42313/24

To ask the Minister for Health if the diagnostic process will be improved and hastened to assist people with asthma and severe asthma receive diagnoses; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Griffin,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme (NCP) for Respiratory on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Improving diagnosis for patients with asthma and severe asthma remains a priority for the HSE.

The National Clinical Programme for Respiratory (COPD & Asthma) was set up to support quality and access to respiratory services for patients living with COPD and Asthma. The End-to-End Model of Care for Asthma was published in in 2021

The implementation of the model is being supported by the Enhanced Community Care (ECC) funded model. 30 Chronic Disease Community Specialist Teams are being established in 30 specialist ambulatory care hubs to provide specialist, multidisciplinary care as close to home as possible. This includes resources in the Specialist Ambulatory Care Hub for asthma included new teams of physiologists specialising in diagnostics for asthma, as well as the prevention and management of asthma with integrated consultants, nurses and physiotherapy services.

A specialist pathway has been developed to provide GP direct access to spirometry to support the diagnosis of asthma in primary care.

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

Anne Horgan
General Manager