



Oifig an Stiúrthoir Cúnta,  
Cúram Priomhúil Rochtain agus Comhthathú,

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,  
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.  
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24<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Deputy Connolly,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 1573/25 To ask the Minister for Health the reason the HSE provides for different requirements of care in different CHOs; at what level of management and who is entitled to approve differentials in care between CHOs; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**- Catherine Connolly**

Dear Deputy Connolly,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 1573/25) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE is committed to delivering efficient high-quality services to all eligible service users. In 2024, there were over 1.3 million patients seen by HSE Primary Care services

The HSE has created 6 new health regions. Each region is responsible for providing both hospital and community care for people in that area. The regionalisation of the HSE means that we can plan and deliver our services around the specific need of people in each area and improve how these services are run. It also changes how people take responsibility for service provision with budget, leadership and responsibility for local decision making devolved to a local level. A key component of this new structure, however, is to provide a consistent quality of care across the country, with the HSE Centre being responsible for ensuring standards across the regions.

Eligibility for Primary Care services is legislated for by the Health Act 1970. Persons who have full eligibility for services are entitled to free care at the point of delivery. Referrals are triaged and prioritised by the service in line with the management of referrals. Primary care in the community prioritises the provision of care for those identified as having the greatest needs and the highest risk, this is regardless of the care setting.

I trust this is of assistance.

**Seán McArt**



General Manager  
Primary Care Access & Integration