



The Gender Recognition Act 2015 (25 of 2015) , defines ‘primary treating medical practitioner’ as a person’s primary treating endocrinologist or psychiatrist in relation to the matter the subject of an application under subsection (2C);

This term might appear at first reading by a doctor to refer to a *primary care doctor or a GP*, but for the purposes of this act the term refers to a *psychiatrist or an endocrinologist*.

Medical practitioners involved in the assessment and treatment of people who wish to apply for reassigning of gender will be specialists in this field of medicine. Persons wishing to be considered for gender reassignment or gender recognition may be referred by their GP , or by a different specialist to attend a specialist in the field of gender recognition, for example a specialist in psychiatry and a specialist in endocrinology. Other specialists may need to be involved, for example, surgical specialists for gender reassignment surgery.

Currently GP’s are not trained in the medical aspects of gender recognition or in the area of counselling individuals regarding the medical, legal and constitutional consequences of gender reassignment and gender recognition. Therefore the GP has no formal role to play in decision making in this act, other than to possibly be the doctor involved in making the initial referral to specialists in the field, and to coordinating the updating of patients medical records with new information from specialists who were involved in caring for the patient.

In practical terms, the patient can decide with their psychiatrist and endocrinologist, the degree of information that is to be shared by these specialists with their GP, in many cases, the specialist sends a summary discharge notification letter to the GP on behalf of the patient in order for the GP to update the patient medical records.

The GP may be involved in the ongoing care of the patient with regard to follow up blood tests, administration of certain medications and ongoing support but for the purposes of this act the term refers to ‘primary treating medical practitioner’.

April 2018