

COST OF A PRIVATE GP CONSULTATION IN IRELAND IS A CROSS COUNTRY LOTTERY

- **Cheapest consultation found in Portumna at just €30**
- **Most expensive consultation, at €65, is in Dublin**
- **Co. Waterford sees consultation enquiries rise by 165% in past 12 months**
- **Enquiries for private GPs in Dublin more than doubles (117%) in one year**
- **Average price for an appointment in Ireland is €49.36**
- **Enquiries for private GP appointments across Ireland have more than doubled (102%) in the past two years**

Wednesday 9th July 2014 – Enquiries for private GP appointments across Ireland have risen by 102% in the past two years, according to research by private healthcare search engine WhatClinic.com. Although demand is up across Ireland, there are considerable price variations depending on where you live.

In a price comparison report of over 650 clinics in 264 towns and cities across Ireland, Dublin topped the list as the most expensive private GP appointment, with a single consultation costing €65. By contrast, the cheapest private consultation can be found in Portumna for just €30.

Those living in Co. Leitrim will enjoy the lowest rates overall in Ireland, with the average cost of a private GP consultation in the county costing a very reasonable €39.17. Co. Meath is a close second with appointments costing an average of €39.38.

Outside of the Capital, Co. Wicklow and Co. Kildare topped the charts as the most expensive at €52.76 and €52.71, respectively. The biggest increase has been in Co. Waterford where demand has shot up by 117%, despite the €50 average price tag.

The level of private GP appointment enquiries in Dublin is 14 times higher than that of the country's second largest city, Cork. Patients in the capital can expect to pay an average of €52.99 for a consultation although depending where you are in the city, costs can vary greatly. Prices start at €30 for a standard appointment but can range up to €65 for a top clinic, although that price doubles (€130) for a more convenient home visit.

Despite the cost, Dublin has seen private GP enquiries more than double (117%) in the past year alone, and demand is expected to rise over the next couple of months as people make urgent pre-holiday appointments.

The table below shows the results of a price comparison report for private GP consultation in each county in Ireland:

County	Average price €
Co. LEITRIM	39.17
Co. MEATH	39.38
Co. DONEGAL	41.19
Co. SLIGO	43.33
Co. KERRY	44.00
Co. MONAGHAN	45.00
Co. ROSCOMMON	45.50
Co. CAVAN	45.71
Co. MAYO	45.83
Co. OFFALY	45.83
Co. LOUTH	46.11
Co. CLARE	46.50
Co. LIMERICK	47.50
Co. LONGFORD	47.78
Co. GALWAY	48.40
Co. TIPPERARY	48.41
Co. LAOIS	49.00
Co. WATERFORD	50.00
Co. KILKENNY	50.00
Co. CORK	50.09
Co. WEXFORD	50.45
Co. WESTMEATH	51.00
Co. CARLOW	51.50
Co. KILDARE	52.71
Co. WICKLOW	52.76
Co. DUBLIN	52.99

The table below shows the cheapest and most expensive private GP consultation, according to clinic comparison site WhatClinic.com, where 1697 GP clinics are listed:

Rank	Town/City	Price €
Cheapest	Portumna	30
Most expensive	Dublin	65

Caelen King, CEO of WhatClinic.com, comments: “Over the past few years we have noticed a steady increase in patients, particularly in urban areas, enquiring about private GP consultations.

“Here in Ireland, we’re not in the habit of shopping around for GP services. However, if you are paying for regular private consultations without the benefit of a medical card – even a small difference in price can add up over a single year. Some GPs do charge more than others as our report shows. I would ask - are you paying more than average for your GP visits?”

– ENDS –

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About WhatClinic.com

WhatClinic.com is a clinic comparison site that lists over 100,000 clinics globally. In 2013 15.7 million people visited the site to find, compare and book treatments across a wide range of elective, self-pay medical treatments. WhatClinic.com’s mission is to give the patient, as an empowered consumer, access to all the information they need to make an informed choice, including price, availability and reviews. WhatClinic.com was founded in 2007 by tech entrepreneur Caelen King, and is in operation in over 127 countries.