

PQ Rep IEHG
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14th June 2019

Deputy Micheál Martin T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

E: micheál.martin@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ 22870/19 – Capacity of the acute medical assessment unit in St. Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny

“To ask the Minister for Health the functional and operational capacity of the acute medical assessment unit in St. Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Martin,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question seeking an update on the capacity of the acute medical assessment unit in St. Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny, which has been referred to the Ireland East Hospital Group for direct response.

I have had this matter investigated and am advised that The Acute Medical Assessment (AMAU) at St. Luke's General Hospital Kilkenny has 10 trolley spaces. During 2018 - 8,592 emergency patients presented to the department.

This represents an average daily throughput of 27 presentations Monday to Friday or 24 patients per day over 7 days. The unit is open for admission between 8am and 7pm. Approximately two thirds of all patients presenting to the AMAU are GP referrals, so a very significant element of its workload comes from our primary care services. As the unit is in place for almost 20 years now, it is a well-established and an integral component of the overall Acute Floor service, which works very closely with the GP/primary care providers in both Carlow /Kilkenny and surrounding counties who refer directly to the AMAU.

Out of hours, acute medical referrals are managed via the main Emergency Department (ED) adjacent to the AMAU. In addition, at times of peak demand, the AMAU works seamlessly with their ED colleagues in managing the additional acute medical presentations in the main ED.

The AMAU provides assessment and treatment to all acute medical referrals (GP referrals) during operational hours and deals with all acute medical conditions (stroke, COPD, cardiac etc). The AMAU shares the resuscitation area with the main ED for the treatment of urgent critically ill presentations as necessary.



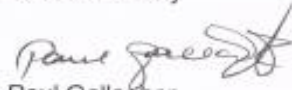
Mary Day, Chief Executive /
Thomas Lynch, Chairman Tel: 01-9602360

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Eccles Street
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This model of emergency care (Acute Floor incorporating ED, AMAU, Acute Surgical Assessment Unit, Paediatric Assessment Unit) has supported the hospital in the efficient and safe management of patients who present to the hospital.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Paul Gallagher
Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery



Mary Day, Chief Executive /
Thomas Lynch, Chairman Tel: 01-9602360

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