



General Manager's Office  
University Hospital Waterford,  
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13<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Ms Mary Butler TD  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 45288 - To ask the Minister for Health the protocols in place when moving paediatric diabetes patients to adult diabetes services at University Hospital Waterford; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Butler

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

I can advise that many Paediatric Centres transition patients to adult services at 16 years of age. However, in University Hospital Waterford, paediatric patients are transitioned to adult services, beyond the age of 16, usually during their leaving cert year. This is to ensure patients are safely monitored while completing their schooling. Their final visit with UHW paediatric services is after they have completed their Leaving Cert Exam. The discussion regarding transition typically begins when the student enters 6<sup>th</sup> year and the various options regarding areas to transition to are discussed and a referral is sent to the adult service.

There is a significant demand on Adult Diabetes Services at UHW but efforts are ongoing to recruit a 2<sup>nd</sup> Consultant Endocrinologist. Also, supported by a grant from the Sláintecare integration fund, it is proposed to establish a new innovative and integrated Diabetes Service in 2020, focused on supporting and empowering people with Diabetes Type 1 to thrive with diabetes. The new service will provide specialist healthcare, support and self-management education, delivered in the main in an appropriate primary care setting.

I trust the above is satisfactory but if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Grace Rothwell  
General Manager  
University Hospital Waterford  
Kilcreene Regional Orthopaedic Hospital