

CC/WOD/MD

Email: pqmidwestacute@hse.ie

19th November 2019

Mr Willie O'Dea TD
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 46913/19

*** To ask the Minister for Health if he will address matters regarding the case of persons with type one diabetes (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Willie O'Dea**

Details supplied: Can he comment of the fact that approximately 4,700 people with type one diabetes living in Clare, Limerick, Tipperary and North Kerry, the majority of whom attend University Hospital Limerick group for their diabetes care, who do not have, any diabetes dietitians, diabetes structured education which is supposed to happen within six months of diagnosis, Insulin pump therapy for adults with type one diabetes in the Mid West, four year waiting list to be seen in a consultant led type two diabetes clinic, as the effects of not having access to a minimum standard of diabetes care has devastating results

Dear Deputy O'Dea,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your representation on this matter.

The staffing deficits identified by Diabetes Ireland are acknowledged and addressing these remains a priority for UL Hospitals Group.

UL Hospitals Group acknowledges that the wait time to see a Consultant Endocrinologist is lengthy at a minimum of four years for a patient diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, as there is currently 1.0 WTE consultant Endocrinologist in the group for adult diabetic patients. We are currently recruiting for a second Endocrinologist and this is progressing through the recruitment process. Our services are also supported by a dedicated team of clinical nurse specialists in diabetes. In addition there are three podiatrists working in diabetic foot care.

There are two consultants and a specialist dietitian working with our paediatric diabetes patients. However, there is currently no specialist dietitian in post for adults with Type 1 Diabetes. Approval is required nationally before we can progress recruitment for this post. We have identified this as a significant gap in our service and we are committed to addressing this.



This staffing deficit in respect of the specialist dietitian is one of the main reasons why ULHG does not start adult patients on insulin pumps or facilitate self-management education for adults with type 1 diabetes. We do, however, accept patients established on pumps from elsewhere and these patients are managed under the care of the consultant endocrinologist. The largest group of these patients are those who have transferred from the paediatric diabetes service in UHL. All of our insulin pump patients are seen in UHL.

OPD diabetic clinics take place in Ennis, Nenagh, and St John's Hospital as well as UHL. There is an average of two diabetic clinics per week across ULHG.

I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group