

CC/MQ/MMCM

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

20th November 2019

Mr Maurice Quinlivan TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: PQ 47315/19

***To ask the Minister for Health the number of diabetes dietitians employed in University Hospital Limerick; the number of patients waiting to see a diabetes dietitian in the hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Maurice Quinlivan**

Re: PQ 47316/19

*** To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons waiting for an insulin pump at University Hospital Limerick; the length of time waited in months in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Maurice Quinlivan**

Re: PQ 47317/19

*** To ask the Minister for Health the number of endocrinologists employed in University Hospital Limerick; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Maurice Quinlivan**

Re: PQ 47319/19

*** To ask the Minister for Health the number of diabetes patients waiting for a carbohydrate counting course at University Hospital Limerick; the length of time waiting in months in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Maurice Quinlivan**

Dear Deputy Quinlivan,

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.

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.

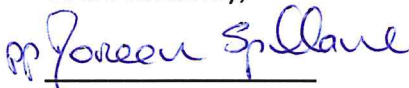
This staffing deficit in respect of the specialist dietitian is one of the main reasons why ULHG does not start adult patients on insulin pumps or facilitate self-management education for adults with type 1 diabetes. We do, however, accept patients established on pumps from elsewhere and these patients 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.

As we do not provide insulin pumps for patients or self-management education, we do not operate a waiting list for patients.

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