

CC/JC/MMCM

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

06th August 2020

Mr Joe Carey TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 17953/20

*** To ask the Minister for Health if consideration and the necessary resources will be given to advance proposals to provide ambulatory care units throughout the mid-west region model two hospitals in Ennis, St. John's and Nenagh; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Joe Carey**

Dear Deputy Carey,

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.

Ambulatory care has been provided throughout the Mid West for a number of years through the Injury Units and Medical Assessment Units within UL Hospitals Group.

The Injury Units at Ennis, Nenagh and St John's Hospitals have traditionally played a strong role in alleviating pressure on the Emergency Department at University Hospital Limerick, and especially in recent weeks and months during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The Injury Units treat a range of minor injuries, including broken bones, dislocations, sprains, sports injuries, wounds and burns.

During 2019, there was an approximate 2% increase in patients attending the three Injury Units, and even with a 3% increase in numbers attending the Ennis unit alone, there is capacity for more. All three units enjoy consistently positive ratings from its patients.

Attendance at the Injury Units costs €75, and there is no charge for patients with full medical cards, or those who have a valid medical/GP referral letter. The Injury Unit at Ennis Hospital is open seven days a week, 8am-8pm, and is contactable on 065-6863121. The unit at Nenagh (seven days, 8am-8pm) can be contacted on 067-42311, while the unit at St John's Limerick (seven days a week, 8am-7pm) can be contacted on 061-462303. Visit www.hse.ie/injuryunits for further information.





Working together, caring for you

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Medical Assessment Units (MAU) are provided in Ennis, Nenagh and St John's Hospitals for patients who do not require access to critical care and can be referred directly by their GP.

GPs can contact the MAU via a central hub, the Bed Bureau and an appointment is arranged for the patient at the most appropriate MAU, where the patient will be seen by a medical consultant and their team.

If there is some additional information that you require please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Colette Cowan'.

Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group

