

CC/CB/MMCM

Email: pqmidwestacute@hse.ie

13th August 2020

Mr Colm Burke TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: PQ 19371/20

*** To ask the Minister for Health the steps being taken to provide a fully resourced diabetes services at University Hospital Limerick for adults with type 1 diabetes; if plans are in place to employ a full-time dietician and an insulin pump nurse at the hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Colm Burke**

Dear Deputy Burke,

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 can confirm that there is currently 1 WTE Consultant Endocrinologist in UL Hospitals Group (ULHG) and a further 1 WTE Consultant Endocrinologist is due to commence in ULHG in October 2020. The service is supported by a dedicated team of Clinical Nurse Specialists and Staff Nurses. I understand that there is diabetic nurse support in St Johns, Ennis and UMHL. There are currently two diabetic CNS posts in UHL, 0.5 is shared with Nenagh hospital. There are also three specialist diabetic staff nurse positions within the diabetes unit.

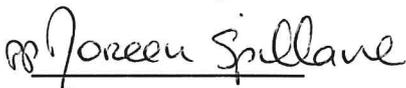
Currently, the service is unable to commence adult patients on insulin pumps due to staffing deficits. We accept patients established on pumps from elsewhere and these patients are managed under the care of the Consultant Endocrinologist. The largest group of these patients are those who have transferred from the Paediatric Diabetes Service in University Hospital Limerick (UHL). All of our insulin pump patients are seen in UHL.

OPD diabetic clinics take place in UHL, Ennis, Nenagh and St. John's Hospital. Pre Covid there was an average of 2 diabetic clinics per week across ULHG and plans are underway to resume these clinics in line with Medicine's Covid-19 re-emergence plan.

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. Patients are seen by a ward dietician as in-patients but there is no specialist care or out-patient appointments for diabetes patients in UHL. 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.

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