



29th May 2020

PQ 7123/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the estimated full year cost of providing ten additional chemotherapy slots per day in University Hospital Galway; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Catherine Connolly

Dear Deputy Connolly

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you directly in the context of the request for information referenced above, the following outlines the situation.

GUH are committed to delivering on the priorities as set out in the Saolta Strategy 2019 – 2023 in the delivery of cancer treatment for patients.

UHG had increased the number of chemotherapy slots per day from 16 in 2001 to 22 in February 2019, seeing over 70 patients per day. Owing to the pressure on the hospital due to the Covid-19 pandemic we have also increased the working week to 6 out of 7 days to prepare patients to come in for treatment while we manage the pandemic.

As identified Day Ward capacity is a challenge and there is a requirement for increased infrastructure to support providing ten additional chemotherapy slots per day but to facilitate 10 additional slots a day a New Ambulatory Build. This would have considerable cost considerations would be required to include funding for sufficient resources, staffing, pharmacy costs, etc.

Our priority at the moment is to treat patients safely while reducing the risks associated with COVID 19 in line with NCCP advice for Medical Professionals on the management of Patients undergoing SACT in response to current novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

We are working with guidance around social distance and safety measures for our patients and reviewing the reconfigured day ward to accommodate social distancing since March 16th 2020.

I trust this clarifies the matter at this time.

Yours sincerely

Chris Kane

General Manager

Galway University Hospitals.