

CC/CC/MMcM

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

30th September 2020

Mr Cathal Crowe TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 24489/20

*** To ask the Minister for Health the steps being taken by the University of Limerick Hospitals Group to provide insulin pump therapy as a treatment option to all eligible adults with type 1 diabetes; the plans of the group to provide type 1 diabetes self-management education to adults attending its clinics; if the group has included the specialist nursing staff and dieticians required to provide insulin pump therapy for adult diabetes services across the group within its budget proposal; and if he will fund same. -Cathal Crowe**

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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.

Currently, the adult service in UHL is unable to commence adult patients on insulin pumps due to service demands. 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.

UL Hospitals Group recognises the need for additional supports within our adult diabetic services. This issue is a core focus for UL Hospitals Group and we are committed to improving the service for our patients. As you are aware, developing services around insulin pump therapy and structured education in particular require us to fill further specialist posts, including nursing posts. While there is a specialist dietitian working within our paediatric diabetes patients, there is currently no specialist dietitian in post for adults with Type 1 Diabetes. Patients are seen by a ward dietitian as in-patients but there is no specialist dietetic care or out-patient appointments for diabetes patients in UHL.

Developing our diabetes services is a core focus for UL Hospitals Group and we are committed to improving the service for our patients. To that end, we will be submitting a bid to develop this service, including the appointment of specialist posts, and this will form part of our 2021 estimates process.





Working together, caring for you

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colette Cowan', written over a horizontal line.

Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group



University Hospital Limerick is a member of **UL Hospitals Group** which also comprises: Nenagh Hospital, Ennis Hospital, Croom Orthopaedic Hospital, University Maternity Hospital Limerick and St. John's Hospital (voluntary).