



14 October 2020

Deputy John Lahart TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 20/27580

“To ask the Minister for Health the definition of a sub-acute bed; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Purpose:

- The purpose of Sub-Acute beds is to provide medical and nursing care for patients whose needs do not require care in a Model 3 or Model 4 Hospital. Sub-Acute beds are predominantly Model 2 Hospitals, depending on local requirements and arrangements.
- They may also extend to purpose-commissioned overflow/step down facilities such as the UL Arena or similar instances. When any location is classified as Step Down only, then the infrastructural, staffing and governance arrangements dictate that referrals are from acute hospitals only.

Potential patient profile:

- Referred from Community Assessment Hubs; for whom the decision has been made that they will not be escalated to ITU.
- Palliative Care/End of Life Care who need 24/7 nursing care but who do not need to remain in a Model 3 or Model 4 Hospital.
- Discharged from acute hospitals but who are not yet fit for home ('step down') and are not suitable for Self-Isolation Units
- Patient selection criteria should reflect the capacity of the Intermediate Care Facility to manage the O₂ requirement of the patient.

I hope this information is helpful

Yours sincerely,

Robert Morton
Assistant National Director
Acute Operations