



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive



University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

OFFICE OF THE CEO  
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24<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Deputy Colm Burke,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 60729/21

**\* To ask the Minister for Health the actions his Department is taking to assist with the slow transition of patients from paediatric to adult diabetes services in Cork which currently has a minimum two-year waiting list for adult services; 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. We have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The South/ South West Hospital Group (S/SWHG) in collaboration with its ten hospitals has undertaken substantial work to address waiting lists and manage the effects of the on-going Covid-19 pandemic and the May 2021 HSE cyber- attack on overall activity as we continue to work with all our hospitals to recover and improve patient access to services including paediatric and adult diabetes services in Cork.

The Group has generated additional capacity through a variety of means such as insourcing (out of hours' capacity), use of the private hospital arrangement and National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) funding e.g. hospitals are utilising new ways of working such as "Telehealth" for outpatient appointments where appropriate.

The recruitment of additional staff for the Diabetes service in Cork will also assist in reducing waiting list times for adult services which in turn will aid the transition of patients from paediatric to adult services.

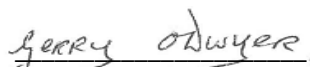
S/SWHG also continues to work with our community colleagues in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH) under the Enhanced Community Care Programme (ECCP) to implement evidence-based health promotion and improvement interventions in the community healthcare networks (CHNs) / community specialist teams (hubs) focusing on disease prevention and wellbeing improvements.

Community Specialist Teams (CSTs) are central to the delivery of "end to end care" for those with chronic disease (Diabetes, Heart Failure, COPD, Asthma) and for older people, ensuring a smooth transition of care across both acute and community services for the service user, while optimising the number of people accessing care in the community setting.

The aim of such a programme will be a reduction of 20% in bed days used for patients with diabetes, COPD, asthma and heart failure who are in the Chronic Disease Programme by end of Q4 of second year. This is also expected to assist with the current waiting list for diabetes services.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Gerry O'Dwyer in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

**Mr. Gerry O' Dwyer**

**CEO,**

**South/South West Hospital Group**

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