



Darren O'Rourke TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

15th March 2021

PQ 7894/21

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in each county awaiting insulin pump training; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Darren O'Rourke”

Dear Deputy O'Rourke,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 7894/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Insulin pumps are small, computerised devices worn on the outside of the body and deliver insulin through a tube (called an infusion set) which is placed under the skin of the abdomen. An insulin pump replaces the need for frequent insulin injections by delivering insulin continuously throughout the day and night. Patients still need to know how to adjust the pump and tell it how much insulin to deliver at meal times. They also need to be able to make adjustments in their insulin pump settings based on changes in diet, lifestyle and other factors including stress.

Recently published Irish research has demonstrated that uptake of insulin pump therapy in people with type 1 diabetes is low in Ireland, compared to other European countries, and is particularly low in those over 18 years of age. To be able to initiate and support patients in the use of an insulin pump, diabetes teams need specialist training. Data from a National Survey of Diabetes Care Services in Acute Hospitals in 2018 supplemented by updated current information shows that only 15 of the 31 hospitals surveyed provide pump initiation and/or follow-up to patients using insulin pumps.

Information regarding waiting lists for insulin pump initiation is not routinely collected by the National Clinical Programme for Diabetes. However based on information returned by hospitals with pump clinics we are aware of 323 adults currently on a waiting list for insulin pump initiation in Ireland. It is not possible to provide a breakdown by county.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



TJ Dunford

Head of Operations; Primary Care.
Community Operations.