

CC/CC/MC

08th March 2021

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

RE: PQ 9955/21

To ask the Minister for Health if a discharge coordinator is in place at University Hospital Limerick; and when urology appointments will recommence at Ennis General Hospital - 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.

I have been in contact with the relevant staff and I have been informed that a number of supports are in place onsite at University Hospital Limerick to support discharges including an Assistant Director Public Health Nurse, a Public Health Nurse, a Community Occupational Therapist, a Fair Deal Scheme coordinator and a dedicated staff nurse who works on discharge coordination. The Assistant Director Public Health Nurse, the Public Health Nurse as well as the Community Occupational Therapist currently work with Mid West Community Healthcare to manage discharges back into the community.

In relation to urology appointments, I can confirm that virtual appointments are ongoing at Ennis Hospital. In-person appointments are also taking place for patients who are deemed in need of urgent care. These appointments are approved by our Chief Clinical Director.

We have started to gradually resume clinics and elective procedures across some specialties. We are conscious that the unfortunate but necessary suspension of so much scheduled work has been difficult on our patients, especially those who had already been waiting a long time for their outpatient appointment or procedure. We are carefully scaling up these services in line with the national public health guidance and in a manner which optimises patient care while minimising risks to patients, staff and the wider healthcare system.

Emergency and time-critical services continued to operate throughout the pandemic and as the weeks progressed, there was considerable growth of and investment in virtual outpatient consultations for many specialties across the system. A virtual clinic is one in which the patient and clinician interact in real time, via a video or telephone.



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

Yours sincerely,

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).