

General Manager's Office  
University Hospital Waterford,  
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South/South West Hospital Group  
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6<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Ms Jennifer Murnane O' Connor TD  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 23166 - To ask the Minister for Health the reason some diabetes type 1 patients in University Hospital Waterford are being requested to transfer, the status regarding persons with type 1 diabetes in University Hospital Waterford being given the opportunity to access insulin pumps; the reason University Hospital Waterford is the only level 4 hospital not currently providing insulin pump therapy to adults with type 1 diabetes; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Murnane O' Connor

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 examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

I can advise that UHW is not currently in a position to provide insulin pump therapy locally for patients with type 1 diabetes. Presently, any patients who require this service are referred to either Cork or Dublin.

The current focus is on the 'Waterford Thrive with Diabetes Service' Project, supported by Sláintecare Integration Funding 2019/2020. This project is focused on supporting and empowering people with Diabetes Type 1 to thrive with diabetes through the provision of specialist healthcare, support and self-management education, delivered in the main in an appropriate primary care setting.

The main project deliverables include:

- Senior Diabetes Specialist Dietician and Specialist Diabetes CNS -led Dose Adjusted for Normal Eating (DAFNE) Structured Patient Education (SPE)
- Specialist Diabetes Supported Discharge and post-discharge follow-up Service in Primary Care.
- Specialist ambulatory review/support clinics in primary care for target cohorts (e.g. young people transitioning from Paediatric to Adult Services, newly diagnosed patients and patients with poor control).
- Specialist MDT clinic support


Following the establishment of the Thrive with Diabetes Service, it is expected that the service will deliver 8-10 DAFNE programmes annually and additionally will facilitate >1500 patient clinic appointments/encounters in the initial year of service.

Successful delivery of this integrated model of Type1 Diabetes care will demonstrate the potential of continuation of the Waterford Thrive with Diabetes Service, post project completion, and potentially to scale this project to other sites regionally and nationally. Due to the COVID-19 Global Pandemic this Project was temporarily paused in March 2020 however it re-commenced at the start of August 2020.

Since Project re-commencement, a Specialist Diabetes CNS and a Senior Diabetes Specialist Dietician have commenced in new Project posts to progress delivery of the project and operation of planned services from September 2020 to the expected end project date of July 2021. The CNS and Dietician are currently undertaking a DAFNE Educators Programmes, in preparation of delivery of DAFNE programmes to patients, commencing in January 2021.

I trust the above is satisfactory but if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



**Grace Rothwell**  
**General Manager**  
**University Hospital Waterford**  
**Kilcreene Regional Orthopaedic Hospital**