



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan
An Ceantar Theas
An Bothar Mileata
Cill Mhaighneann
BÁC 8

Acute Operations
Health Service Executive
Unit 4A - The Dargan Building
Heuston South Quarter
Military Road
Kilmainham
Dublin 8.

30th June 2021

Deputy Denis Naughten
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

23544/21

PQ Question: *To ask the Minister for Health the ECMO facilities that exist for the treatment of persons with respiratory illnesses.*

23545/21

PQ Question: *To ask the Minister for Health the ECMO facilities that exist for treatment of both adults and children with cardiac illnesses.*

Dear Deputy Naughten,

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 am advised that Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) was developed in the 1960's from cardiopulmonary bypass practice during heart surgery to provide heart or lung support for days or weeks in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU). I understand that ECMO is used in adult patients with acute, severe, potentially-reversible respiratory or cardiac failure when they have continued to deteriorate despite optimal conventional support. An ECMO service must operate within a fully functional tertiary-referral Intensive Care practice; The Mater ECMO service was developed in 2009; is it the only hospital in Ireland that provides ECMO to adult patients.

I am also advised that ECMO is provided at CHI, Crumlin, for all infants and children with heart disease who require this intervention. ECMO is used as a life saving measure only - in cases where the heart function is extremely poor but there is a reasonable chance of recovery if the circulation can be supported (and the patient literally kept alive) while awaiting recovery of the heart function.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Ivory
General Manager
Acute Operations