



**Head of Service for Older People
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**
Health Service Executive
Model Business Park
Model Farm Road
Cork Eircode: T12 HT02

Cúram Sláinte Pobail Corcaigh Ciarraí
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Páirc Gnó Model
Bóthar na Modh Feirme
Corcaigh Eircode: T12 HT02
T: 353 (0)21 4923854

30th November 2021

Deputy Michael Healy Rae, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 55494/21

“To ask the Minister for Health when a geriatrician will be in place for County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Details Supplied:

“This has been promised and we are still awaiting this appointment”.

Dear Deputy Healy Rae,

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.

There are currently three Consultant Geriatricians appointed to health services in County Kerry. In November 2019 a 0.5WTE Geriatrician operated in University Hospital Kerry (UHK), primarily working with the stroke service. In March 2020, along with the development of the Kerry Integrated Care Programme for Older Persons (Kerry ICPOP)/Residential Care Facility Covid Response Team, this was increased to 1.0 WTE (integrated between UHK and Kerry ICPOP) on a 0.2:0.8 WTE basis.

Two additional Geriatricians were appointed in November 2020/January 2021 and are primarily based in UHK (overseeing Stroke and Dementia services) and ICPOP (supporting integrated frailty clinics and the Early Supported Discharge Team). The aim of these posts is to enhance integration of older persons care across primary care, hospital and community services. Several new services have been developed for the older person in Kerry as a result of these appointments including: an ambulatory care hub for older persons with access to a multidisciplinary care team; a residential care facility liaison team; enhancement of the Local Placement Forum decision making process; Kerry Early Supported Discharge team; increased support to the UHK Emergency department Front door Frailty Intervention Team; increased supports to the Orthogeriatrics service in UHK.

The primary objective of ICPOP is to develop and implement integrated services and pathways for older people with complex health and social care needs, shifting the delivery of care away from acute hospitals towards community based, planned and coordinated care. Care is provided by a multidisciplinary team under the clinical governance of a Consultant Geriatrician. ICPOP focuses on the clinical areas of frailty, falls and memory/dementia.

A fourth consultant post – to be shared on a 0.5:0.5 WTE basis between UHK and ICPOP - has recently been approved for Kerry to further support and develop cohesive primary and secondary care services for older people. The specifications of this post are currently being finalised and it is hoped to advertise the post early in the new year.



I trust this clarifies the position. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Jackie Daly
Head of Service for Older People

