

CC/MB/MC

Email: pqmidwestacute@hse.ie

08th December 2021

Mr Martin Browne TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 57188/21

To ask the Minister for Health if he has examined additional pathways to care through the use of Nenagh Hospital in order to alleviate the demand on University Hospital Limerick; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Martin Browne

Dear Deputy Browne,

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.

The Nenagh Hospital Injury Unit and Medical Assessment Unit are services which significantly help to reduce pressure on the Emergency Department at University Hospital Limerick.

The Injury Unit at Nenagh Hospital is open seven days a week from 8am-8pm, and can be contacted on 067-42311. The Injury Unit at Nenagh Hospital, which serves the population of North Tipperary, processed 8,672 attendances during 2020 and 8,383 attendances up to October 2021. In addition, across UL Hospitals Group, presentations at Injury Units accounted for 31.2% of all emergency presentations in 2020. To help alleviate pressure on the ED at UHL, anyone attending with a minor injury is re-directed for care to their nearest Injury Unit.

Patients attending the Injury Unit in Nenagh benefit from the expertise and care of a consultant-led team of doctors, Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioners (RANPs), nurses, and other healthcare professionals who are highly experienced in the treatment of injuries that may not be threatening to life and limb, but which nonetheless require medical attention and treatment.

In addition, the Medical Assessment Unit at Nenagh Hospital provides diagnosis and treatment for patients referred with medical conditions including chest infections, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), pneumonia, urinary tract infections, fainting episodes, clots in the leg, anaemia, or non-acute cardiac problems.

GPs—or the ED— initially assess and refer patients for appointments on the same day or the following day. The multidisciplinary teams at our MAUs work towards same-day diagnosis, treatment and discharge, and aim to see all patients within an hour of arrival.

The Nenagh MAU currently has capacity to see six patients per day and I can advise that all six appointment slots are offered daily. It is likely that the number of appointment slots available will increase when a full time

registrar is recruited and when the National Consultant Appointments Advisory Committee provides approval for a permanent consultant post.

In addition, UL Hospitals Group recently appointed Dr Terry Hennessy, Consultant Cardiologist as Clinical Lead for our Model 2 Hospitals and Integrated Care. Our Model 2 Hospitals provide vital inpatient medical beds, medical assessment units, injuries units and day case surgeries. Dr Hennessy is working closely with all of our hospital sites including Nenagh Hospital to implement positive change and to ensure their development.

I trust this clarifies the position. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

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Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group