

CC/WOD/MC

Email: [pqmidwestacute@hse.ie](mailto:pqmidwestacute@hse.ie)

18<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Mr Willie O'Dea TD,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 49549/21, 49621/21, 49619/21, 49620/21, 50356/21

**\* To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons with diabetes aged 18 years and over that are waiting on a first appointment to the outpatients diabetes clinic in any of the UHL groups; the number of those persons that are waiting 6 to 12, 12 to 18 and 18 to 24 months, 2 to 4 and over 5 years, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Willie O'Dea**

**\*To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons over 18 years of age that are attending University Hospital Limerick hospital group adult diabetes service and using insulin pump therapy to manage their condition; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Willie O'Dea**

**\* To ask the Minister for Health if University Hospital Limerick's group is included in the remaining six diabetes centres to become dose adjusting for normal eating licensed in 2022; if a centre in the mid-west is included in the remaining six centres becoming licensed in 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Willie O'Dea**

**\*To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide the funding in Budget 2022 to provide a minimum of one whole-time equivalent diabetes specialist pump nurse for the adult diabetes clinic in the University Hospital Limerick hospital group to enable insulin pump therapy initiation for persons who are clinically suited to this treatment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Willie O'Dea**

**\* To ask the Minister for Health when a specialist diabetic nurse will be appointed to St. John's Hospital, Limerick; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Willie O'Dea**

Dear Deputy O'Dea

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

UL Hospitals Group recognises the need for additional resources within our adult diabetic services. This issue is a core focus for UL Hospitals Group and we are committed to improving this service for our patients. Developing services around insulin pump therapy and structured education in particular require us to fill further specialist posts, including nursing and dietitian posts.

While there is a specialist dietitian working with our paediatric diabetes patients, there is currently no specialist dietitian in post for adults with Type 1 Diabetes. Patients are seen by a ward dietitian as in-patients but there is no specialist dietetic care or outpatient appointments for adult diabetes patients in UHL.

Currently, the adult service in UHL is unable to commence adult patients on insulin pumps due to service demands. We do, however, accept patients established on pumps from elsewhere and these patients are managed under the care of a consultant endocrinologist. The largest group of these patients are those who have transferred from the paediatric diabetes service in UHL. All of our insulin pump patients are seen in University Hospital Limerick. At present, there are currently 51 patients within our Adult Diabetes Service using insulin pump therapy.

In addition, please see below data in relation to your question regarding the number of patients waiting on a first appointment for the outpatients diabetes clinic at UL Hospitals Group:

Wait time	0-6 months	6-12 months	12-18 months	18-24 months	24-48 months	48-60 months	60+ months
Number of patients	102	67	70	82	239	83	13

In December 2020, UL Hospitals Group received confirmation of funding to recruit three additional dietetic posts for the treatment of adult diabetes. This funding has been made available through the national clinical programme for diabetes. These posts include two senior dieticians and one staff grade dietician. I can confirm that the recruitment process for these posts is at an advanced stage. We will be able to provide a more precise timeline on when we expect successful candidates to take up post in the near future.

I am pleased to advise that a second consultant endocrinologist took up post on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020. Two further consultant endocrinology posts have been approved for University Hospital Limerick. These posts are currently being progressed through the approved HR process. It is not possible at this time to give a definitive timeline as to when these posts will be filled.

The Adult Diabetes Service is also supported by a dedicated team of Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) and Staff Nurses. Four Diabetic CNS posts have been approved for University Hospital Limerick. Of these, three have been successfully recruited and will commence post over the coming months, the recruitment campaign is currently ongoing for the final CNS post. The insulin pump programme will be extended when all Clinical Nurse Specialists are in place and fully trained on same. Unfortunately, it is not possible to give definitive timeframe as to when this will commence. There are also three Diabetic Staff Nurse positions within the Diabetes Unit at UHL, two of these positions have been filled, the recruitment process is currently ongoing to fill the final post.

A recruitment campaign is currently ongoing for a Clinical Nurse Specialist for St John's Hospital, Limerick. Interviews to fill this post are due to take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

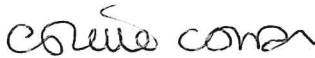
In relation to your question regarding when UL Hospitals Group will have the level of staffing required to initiate the dose adjustment for normal eating course, I can advise that the dose adjustment for normal eating course for adults with Type 1 Diabetes will be dependent on the appointment of specialist dietitians and on the

recruitment of additional CNS posts. Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide a definitive timeframe as to when this programme will commence.

Developing our diabetes services is a core focus for UL Hospitals Group and we are committed to improving this service for our patients.

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**