



**Galway
University
Hospitals**

Ospidéal na h-Ollscoile Gaillimh
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL GALWAY
MERLIN PARK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

**General Manager's Office
University Hospital Galway
Newcastle Road
Galway
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September 27th 2021

PQ Ref. 44680/21

To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that cancer patients are being turned away for scheduled inpatient chemotherapy treatment in Galway University Hospital due to a lack of beds; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Rose Conway-Walsh

Dear Deputy Conway-Walsh


I wish to advise that Galway University Hospital (GUH) has challenges with bed capacity and the service is under pressure not just in cancer services and there are plans for an elective hospital in Merlin Park to assist with alleviating some of the pressures and similarly submissions have been made for additional bed capacity in Galway as there is a deficit. We have hub and spoke models for oncology treatment in Portiuncula and Mayo and we have made submissions for a replacement Haematology Oncology Day Ward.

We have introduced some protected oncology beds on the inpatient oncology ward, however this is a challenge to maintain due to emergencies presenting for oncology care. All oncology patients requiring treatment are reviewed and prioritised daily by the clinical teams including transfers.

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you directly in the context of the request for information referenced above, the following outlines the situation.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

pp 

Chris Kane
General Manager
Galway University Hospitals