

**4th October 2021**

Deputy David Cullinane T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2  
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**Re: PQ 45293/21 – Oncology nurses, MMUH**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the number of full-time head and neck oncology nurse specialists at the Mater Hospital in each of the years of 2018 to 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question seeking information on oncology nurses in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, which has been referred to the Ireland East Hospital Group for direct response.

I have had this matter examined and am advised that the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital has no Head and Neck specialist nurse however the hospital has since 2018:

- One Head & Neck nurse co-ordinator - who manages the patient's journey from diagnosis to surgery. They would meet the patient in the out-patient department and ensure that they are prepared for surgery.
- One Ear, Nose & Throat Tracheostomy nurse specialist - who educates and manages supports for patients and families in relation to any altered airways or requirement for tracheostomy/Laryngectomy post-surgery.

At that stage of the patient's journey, they may be referred to oncology for chemotherapy whereby they are referred to the oncologists in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital under the cancer directorate and they each have a specialist nurse assigned to the specific consultant to support the patient on their chemotherapy journey.



Where patients are referred for radiotherapy, they are referred to St Luke's, Rathgar. They have specialist nurses to manage the patient's treatment journey.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Paul Gallagher  
Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery