



Dearadh agus Nuálaíocht Chliniciúil; Oifig an Príohoifigeach Cliniciúil
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Deputy Catherine Connolly, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 18993/22

To ask the Minister for Health the status of the work of the infectious diseases clinical programme; the status of the establishment of a network of infectious diseases clinics; the number of such clinics established and operational to-date; the locations of all infectious diseases clinics, operational or planned; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Connolly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme for Infectious Diseases (NCPID) on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

The National Clinical Programme for Infectious Diseases (NCPID) was formally established in November 2020. In the intervening 16 months, a working group (WG) and Clinical Advisory Group (CAG) have been established, with representation from each of the clinical Infectious Diseases (ID) sites in the HSE. To date, the main focus of work includes:

1. COVID-19. The National Clinical Programme for Infectious Diseases (NCPID) Clinical Leads have assumed leading roles in crisis management and strategic planning during the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. This has required ongoing review and appraisal of the COVID-19 literature and COVID-19 policies in both Ireland and abroad and is based on a robust understanding of viral pathogens, infection prevention and control (IPC), public health, and clinical care provision. The NCPID Clinical Leads have contributed significantly to National Bodies including Expert Advisory Group (EAG), National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE), The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC), HSE Antigen Groups, Therapeutics Advisory Group (TAG) and HSE COVID-19 treatment guidelines. NCPID clinical leadership has also been instrumental in the ongoing roll-out of the Long Covid service around Ireland and chair the Therapeutics Advisory Group (TAG) that develops the guidelines to inform the roll out of novel therapeutic agents for treatment of COVID 19.

2. Workforce planning document which led to the establishment of new ID services in Tallaght University Hospital (TUH), University Hospital Waterford (UHW) and Tullamore, with pending appointment of a consultant in Sligo University Hospital and in Connolly Hospital.
3. The NCPID team has been working to carry out an assessment of health needs and regional ability to provide infection-related care to Ukrainian refugees.

Regarding existing and planned services, Infectious Disease (ID) services are an integral component of medical care at the 12 hospitals where infectious disease services have been resourced, notably Beaumont Hospital, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda, St. James' Hospital, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, St. Vincent's University Hospital, Cork University Hospital, Mercy University Hospital Cork, Galway University Hospital, University Hospital Limerick (currently no permanent consultant in post but one post appointed and incumbent commencing in second half of 2022), Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore, University Hospital Waterford and Tallaght University Hospital (consultant recently appointed and taking up post imminently). The range of services provided to patients includes inpatient and outpatient clinical services relating to complex infectious diseases and general internal medicine.

HIV care is currently provided in Beaumont Hospital, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda, St. James' Hospital, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, St. Vincent's University Hospital, Cork University Hospital, Galway University Hospital and University Hospital Limerick.

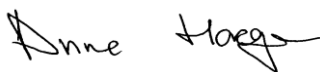
Infectious Disease (ID) physicians have assumed a leading role in management, quality improvement (QI) and medical education related to infection diagnosis and management. There is representation from each site on the working group. Clinical sites adhere to a similar model of care, as much as is possible, realising the diverse nature of infectious diseases.

Infectious Diseases service are planned for and consultant posts have been advertised in:

- Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown
- Sligo University Hospital

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Anne Horgan
General Manager