



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

OFFICE OF THE CEO
SOUTH / SOUTH WEST HOSPITAL GROUP
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16th February 2022

Deputy Sean Sherlock,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 5262/22

*** To ask the Minister for Health if he has plans to set up a long Covid clinic in the South/Southwest Hospital Group; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Sean Sherlock**

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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. We have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE Interim Model of care (MOC) was finalised in September 2021. The aim of the MOC is to ensure that patients who have recovered from the acute phase of COVID-19 are followed up in a timely and appropriate manner, taking into consideration factors such as disease severity, the likelihood of long term respiratory illness and functional disability. It proposes a three tiered approach to service delivery ranging from patient led self-management, to community and GP led intervention to specialist consultant led clinics.

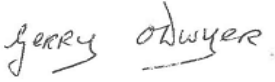
Specialist clinics are further stratified into Post-Acute Clinics for patients with symptoms up to twelve weeks and Long COVID clinics for patients with symptoms for more than twelve weeks. As part of the MOC deliverables for 2022, there are eight Post-Acute clinics, six Long COVID and a National Neurocognitive clinic.

The South/ South West Hospital Group (S/SWHG) are happy to confirm that Cork University Hospital (CUH) has been identified as one of the sites for the development and establishment of a Post-Acute COVID clinic and a Long COVID clinic.

In line with national strategy, management at S/SWHG and CUH are in the process of progressing the recruitment of staff to support the development of these specialist clinics with appropriate clinical, rehabilitation and specialist supports. There is a CUH representative on the working groups for the Post- Acute Clinic and Long COVID Clinic who are involved in planning such clinics, preparing national standards, and implementing the MOC.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerry O'Dwyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Mr. Gerry O' Dwyer
CEO,
South/South West Hospital Group
E-mail ceo.sswhg@hse.ie