

**General Manager's Office
Sligo University Hospital
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**Marian Harkin TD,
Dail Eireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2**

Date 10.03.2022

PQ: 6955/22 Pain Management Services in Sligo University Hospital

Dear Deputy Harkin,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Public Representation. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Response:

Pain Management and Education Programme, Chronic Pain Services, Sligo University Hospital.

The Pain Management and Education Programme (PMEP) is a new initiative within the wider Chronic Pain Services of Sligo University Hospital. Funding was awarded for the project under the auspices of the Sláintecare Integrated Fund in September 2019 in the category of General Chronic Disease, Access to Care. The team consisted of a Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist, Senior Psychologist and Clinical Nurse Specialist in chronic pain, supported by a healthcare assistant and clerical officer. Sláintecare Integrated Funding ran from September 2019 to December 2021.

The aim of the project was to provide an alternative management pathway for patients with chronic, non-cancer related pain. The focus of PMEP was to move the emphasis away from the more traditional pharmacological and interventional treatments delivered in the acute hospital setting by Consultant-led teams to a more long-term, self-management programme focused on achieving good functional outcomes and improved quality of life, delivered in the patients Community and/or home. The project commenced in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic and continued to deliver services, both virtually and in-person, as public health recommendations advised.

Mission Statement

*Sligo University Hospital is committed to the delivery of a high quality, patient centred service in a safe, equitable and efficient manner.
We recognise and value the contribution of each staff member and endeavour to support them in their ongoing development.*

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Over the life time of the project, patients from counties Sligo, Leitrim, Mayo, Donegal and Roscommon attended one of the various services being offered by the PMEP team - 85 patients attended one of the 14 groups, with each group running one day per week for 6 weeks, 353 patients were offered a place on the online chronic pain education webinars delivered by the PMEP team and Consultant Anaesthetist in Chronic Pain Management and 336 individual appointments with the physiotherapist or psychologist were utilised by patients. Sláintecare Integrated Funds supported the project to its end date of 31st December 2021 and the HSE has received funding from the Department of Health to mainstream the project on a permanent basis.

I trust that this addresses your query.

Yours sincerely,



**Grainne McCann,
Hospital Manager.**

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