



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
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25th January 2022

Deputy Pauline Tully,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 1401/22 - To ask the Minister for Health his plans to support persons with long Covid; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Pauline Tully

Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 1401/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Post COVID/Long COVID is a new disease so information on it, its features, incidence and its course are still emerging. Generally, signs and symptoms develop during or following an infection consistent with COVID-19 which continue for more than 4-12 weeks and are not explained by an alternative diagnosis. The condition usually presents with clusters of symptoms, often overlapping, which may change over time and can affect any system in the body.

The HSE has developed an interim Model of Care for Long COVID in September 2021. The aim of this Model of Care is to provide a framework for the design and delivery of services for patients experiencing Long COVID. This Model of Care aims to build on existing service provision, in addition to establishing new services and supports across a number of different health care settings including acute hospitals, general practice and community services. A programme manager and clinic leads representing the areas of neurology, respiratory medicine, infectious disease and rehabilitation have been appointed within the HSE to drive implementation of this Model of Care. This work is being overseen by a National Steering Group.

Post-Acute and Long COVID clinics have been developed at hospitals across the country to provide follow up care for patients who are experiencing prolonged signs and symptoms of COVID-19. These clinics have been established to address the presenting local need at individual hospital sites.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

TJ Dunford

Head of Operations - Primary Care
Community Operations