



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig um Cheannasaí Seirbhíse do Chúram Príomhúil
Cúram Sláinte Phobail FSS an Mheán Iarthair
Ascaill Bhaile Choimín,
Páirc Gnó an Ráithín, Ráithín
Luimneach
Teil: 061 483722

Office of the Head of Service for Primary Care
HSE Mid West Community Healthcare
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25th March 2022

Deputy Michael McNamara
Leinster House,
Kildare St.,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 13143/22 – “To ask the Minister for Health when the new chronic disease management hub will become fully operational in County Clare; the location, functions and staffing details of the hub; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy McNamara,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

I can advise that the Mid West Community Health Care Organisation has been funded for the provision of two Chronic Disease Teams in the Mid West Community Health Care Organisation (CHO3), one team for Limerick (Phase 1) and an enhanced Chronic Disease Team for Co. Clare and North Tipperary (Phase 2).

The Chronic Disease Service focuses on three Chronic Disease groups, Cardiovascular disease, Respiratory disease (including Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and Asthma) and Type II Diabetes. The teams will work and support their colleagues in General Practice, Primary and Secondary care to develop and implement ambulatory care pathways to prevent and manage complex chronic diseases.

A total of 20.1WTE have been assigned for a Chronic Disease Team in Co Clare. The following grades of staff are being recruited; Senior and Staff Grade Dieticians, Specialist, Senior and Staff Grade Podiatrists, Diabetic Clinical Nurse Specialists, Clinical Specialist, Senior and Staff Grade Physiotherapists, Respiratory Clinical Nurse Specialists, Cardiology Clinical Nurse Specialists, Staff Nurse, Staff Grade Clinical Psychologist along with Managerial and Administrative support. Recruitment is underway for all grades of staff. One staff member is currently in post, the Chronic Disease Lead. We are at an advanced stage of recruitment for six posts. A second recruitment campaign is underway for Senior Physiotherapists and Clinical Nurse Specialists and we are about to launch a second campaign for all grades of Podiatrists.

The Health Promotion services are being expanded and will support the Chronic Disease services by providing additional preventative programmes such as “Making Every Contact Count”, which is

a programme that builds the capacity of health care workers to signpost and/or refer patients to preventative programmes. Three additional Quit Mid West, Stop Smoking Clinics have commenced in Co. Clare in Kilrush, Ennis and Shannon. "Minding Your Well Being", a programme specifically for people with Chronic Disease has commenced across the Mid West.

In addition to the above posts for the Chronic Disease services in Co. Clare, additional Clinical and Diagnostic Chronic Disease posts are being recruited for the region through the University Hospital Limerick Group. The posts include a Consultant in Respiratory Medicine with a Special Interest in Chronic Disease and a Consultant in Cardiology with a Special Interest in Chronic Disease Respiratory and Cardiac Physiologists and administrative support. A Senior Medical Laboratory Scientist has commenced and with the provision of this post NTproBNP blood screening is now available to General Practitioners.

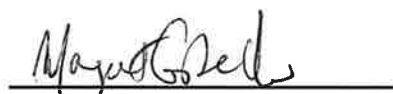
The services will be based in the new Primary Care Centre, Station Road, Ennis, however the services will be provided on a hub and spoke model across the county. The following services will be provided within the hub and on an outreach basis across the county where possible (including clinical review and care by specialist community teams):

- Cardiac Rehabilitation
- Pulmonary Rehabilitation
- Diabetes Self Management Education
- Diagnostic services.

It is anticipated that the Primary Care Centre at Station Road, Ennis, Co. Clare (where the Chronic Disease Team will be based) will become operational in quarter 3 2022. It is difficult to say when the full Chronic Disease Team will be in place as some grades of posts are extremely difficult to recruit. It is estimated that the full roll out of the Chronic Disease service across the country will take approximately three years.

I trust this information addresses the issues raised in your representation.

Yours sincerely,



Margaret Costello,
Head of Service
Primary Care Services