

Our ref: CD/KL
12th April, 2022

Re; PQ 16866/22;

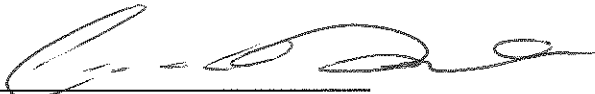
Ask the minister for Health the emergency action he is taking to address the number of patients on trolleys in Mayo University Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Rose Conway Walsh

- Funding is in place for 40 extra beds acute care in SHH hospital; (currently 24 of these are staffed and open. – Nursing staff are being recruited to open 6 more inpatient beds, and 6 day services beds).
- The hospital is to reopen its AMAU in May 2022 which will help decrease the number of patients directly attending the Emergency Department and increase efficiencies in the Management of Acute Medicine reducing patients on trolleys significantly.
- There is direct access for GPs to community services for diagnostics in U/Sound and plain radiology both having significant reduction in wait-times over the last three months. Units open in Clairmorris, Ballina and Castlebar.
- The hospital was supported in opening a CCU in 2020 and this continue to make positive impacts in the length of stay for patients and is likely to
- MUH has been supported with increased resources for interventional radiology and upgrade of its equipment which will result in reduced LOS for patient and prevent inpatients having to travel to UHG for many interventional procedures (this service should be fully functioning by end of May 2022)
- Extra resources have been obtained for the hospital in Home First Team and discharge management to work weekends this will promote early discharge and weekend discharging it will also help with admission avoidance at ED.
- The hospital has been funded to open a 3rd room in Endoscopy to maximise inpatient flow and also reduce wait time for urgent outpatient procedures which will also promote admission avoidance (will be fully functioning by early May) .
- There has been approval for an upgrade of a clinical space in one of our wards which will give us another 2 isolation rooms on site increase of another 2 acute beds (this will be end of 2022).
- Increasing support for ICPOP Day Services for older people to 2 days a week. This will support early discharge and hospital avoidance (recruitment in progress).
- There is approval for the progress of an extension to the Emergency Department with a purpose build AMAU which will facilitate another 8 Acute beds on site. This is the ultimate solution and key action to deal with the ED.
- The hospital has been supported in the progress of a site development control plan which will incorporate a 75 bed ward block accounting for 50 new beds.
- Saolta has completed a bed capacity study for the site and the finding will be utilised to future plan for the site.

The expectation is that by early June the combination of all of these initiatives will start to make real inroads and this will continue month on month to year end if we continue to be successful in our recruitment. The constant implication of Covid has stalled some of this progress and interrupted others due to staffing and general disruption.

I hope this clarifies your query and thank you for your correspondence.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Donohoe', written over a horizontal line.

CATHERINE DONOHOE
Hospital Manager