



Dearadh agus Nuálaíocht Chliniciúil; Oifig an Príohíficeach Cliniciúil
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens, D08 W2A8
R: clinicaldesign@hse.ie

Clinical Design & Innovation; Office of the Chief Clinical Officer
Dr Steevens' Hospital, D08 W2A8
E: clinicaldesign@hse.ie

30th May, 2022

Deputy Cormac Devlin, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 23873/22

To ask the Minister for Health if he will encourage the HSE to re-examine and improve the access pathway for patients with bronchiectasis in order to avoid them having to attend the emergency department in order to access care and services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Devlin,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme for Acute Medicine on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Bronchiectasis is a rare disease of the lung, which is continuing to reduce in prevalence in Ireland. The latest report from the Irish Thoracic Society on Respiratory Health of the Nation (2018)¹ shows that approximately 400 patients with a primary diagnosis of bronchiectasis are admitted on an emergency basis to Irish hospitals each year.

In the event of an acute exacerbation of bronchiectasis, the most appropriate pathway for treatment is referral of patients by their GP for diagnosis and treatment to a local Medical Assessment Unit (MAU), Acute Medical Assessment Unit (AMAU) or Acute Medical Unit (AMU). This will alleviate the need for attendance to an emergency department (ED) and ensure timely diagnosis and treatment by a senior decision maker.

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

Anne Horgan
General Manager

References

1. Irish Thoracic Society: Respiratory Health of the Nation 2018
<https://irishtoracicsociety.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/RESP-Health-LATEST19.12.pdf>



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