



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
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Office of the Head of Operations,
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1st June 2022

Deputy Peadar Tóibín,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 25725/22 – To ask the Minister for Health if all citizens in each CHO have equal access to a public health nurse; the waiting time for a public health nurse in each CHO; if there is a charge for a public health nurse in each CHO for those who have a medical card; the cases in which the charges are imposed and not imposed, respectively; if all citizens in each CHO have equal access to community intervention teams; the waiting time for a community intervention team in each CHO; the charge to access a community intervention team; and if the charge is imposed in each CHO.

- Peadar Tóibín

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 25725/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Community Intervention Teams (CIT) are specialist health professional teams who offer an extended service, usually from 8am to 9pm, seven days per week that facilitates a patient's care in the community or home setting. The purpose of the service is to prevent unnecessary hospital admission or attendance, and to facilitate/enable early discharge of patients from the acute setting that are appropriate for CIT care.

The service accepts referrals from acute hospitals, GPs and other community sources. Some teams benefit from the inclusion of Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Health Care Assistants and Administration, while other teams have access to these through other services. The CIT provide a range of services including administration of home IV antibiotics (Out-patient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT)); acute anticoagulation care; acute wound care and dressings; enhanced nurse monitoring following fractures, falls or surgery; care of a patient with a central venous catheter; urinary related care; care of the patient with a respiratory illness; bowel care including ostomy care; short term older person support and care and other medication management/ administration as part of patient's acute intervention package.

CIT teams are a mix of HSE directly provided and privately provided teams with full nationwide coverage across all of the counties and CHO areas. Waiting times are not recorded for access to Community Intervention Teams and there is no charge to access the services of a Community Intervention Team by a member of the public. Each CHO area holds the budget for each local CIT team to administer funds as appropriate.

Please note that not all Public Health Nursing (PHN) Services accept patient referrals based on need, as certain areas use General Medical Services (GMS) eligibility as criteria for acceptance of referrals. There is no



charge applied to non-GMS patients for the use of PHN Services. PHN services aim to see and evaluate all new patients within twelve weeks.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seán McArt'.

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations