



7<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

Deputy Marc Ó Cathasaigh, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**RE: PQ 52105/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the steps that his Department is taking in order to ensure that there is consistency across all level 4 hospitals in relation to the provision of insulin pump therapy to adults, given that University Hospital Waterford is not providing insulin pump therapy to adults and does not offer treatment to adult patients who are using the therapy, resulting in those who have been receiving the therapy in the paediatric department having to transfer to other overstretched level 4 diabetes units in hospitals outside of the area once they reach the age of 18 years; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Ó Cathasaigh,

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 (NCP) for Diabetes on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Insulin pumps are small, computerised devices worn on the outside of the body and deliver insulin through a tube (called an infusion set) which is placed under the skin of the abdomen. An insulin pump replaces the need for frequent insulin injections by delivering insulin continuously throughout the day and night. People with diabetes still need to know how to adjust the pump and tell it how much insulin to administer at meal times. They also need to be able to make adjustments in their insulin pump settings based on changes in diet, lifestyle and other factors (including stress).

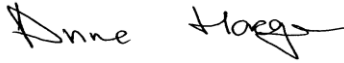
The NCP for Diabetes is aware of variation across hospital sites in relation to pump therapy treatment and transition of young adults to pump therapy services. Therefore, this year, the NCP for Diabetes initiated a survey (including follow up qualitative interviews) with hospital sites to establish the current practice of pump therapy and transition of young adults to adult pump therapy services. Results are currently being analysed. This work will inform service needs and development and will likely require investment in Adult Diabetes services.

Adult Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus National Clinical Guideline No. 17 was published in 2018. The most recently updated guidance by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence – NICE UK (2022) includes recommendations on pump provision. Medical consultants are required to maintain their competence through the professional competency scheme of RCPI and, for Consultant Endocrinologists, this would include upskilling in pump technology. An online portal, the Glooko Academy resource, has been made available to health care professionals in Ireland this year.

This platform aims to develop clinician's knowledge and upskill/maintain knowledge of diabetes technologies. Individual diabetes centres may have developed their own guidelines for provision of insulin pumps.

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



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**Anne Horgan**  
**General Manager**