

CC/WOD/MC

Email: pqmidwestacute@hse.ie

19th October 2022

Mr Willie O'Dea TD,
Dàil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 50178/22

*** To ask the Minister for Health the requirements which need to be met in order that the University of Limerick Hospitals Group can offer insulin pump therapy as a treatment option for adults with type 1 diabetes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Willie O'Dea**

Dear Deputy O'Dea,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Currently, the adult service in UHL is unable to commence new adult patients on insulin pumps due to service demands. We accept patients established on pumps from elsewhere and these patients are managed under the care of the consultant endocrinologist. The largest group of these patients are those who have transferred from the paediatric diabetes service in UHL.

We are in the process of setting up a service to offer insulin pump therapy to new patients with type 1 diabetes to manage their condition. This service requires:

- Diabetes nurse specialists with experience in insulin pump therapy
- Specialist dietitians with experience in insulin pump therapy
- Consultant endocrinologists with experience in insulin pump therapy
- Provision of a structured education course for people to commence insulin pump therapy for the first time

We have personnel in place and appropriate training and development is currently underway. We envisage that insulin pump therapy could be offered to new patients from Q3 2023.

We have made positive progress recently in recruiting staff for our adult diabetic services. Following successful recruitment campaigns, a Consultant Endocrinologist commenced post at University Hospital Limerick in May 2022. An additional Consultant Endocrinologist is also due to take up post in October 2022.

The Adult Diabetes Service is also supported by a dedicated team of Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) and Staff Nurses. Four Diabetic CNS posts have been approved for University Hospital Limerick. Following recruitment campaigns, all four Clinical Nurse Specialists are now in place. There are also three Diabetic Staff Nurses in post at University Hospital Limerick.



Working together, caring for you

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Developing our diabetes services continues to be a core focus for UL Hospitals Group and we are committed to improving this service for our patients.

I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'pp Colette Cowan'.

Prof Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group

