

CC/NC/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

01st November 2022

Mr Niall Collins TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 51890/22

To ask the Minister for Health the details of any agreement that the HSE has with private providers in Limerick to treat patients off waiting lists.

Dear Minister Collins

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.

Please see below details of agreements currently in place with private healthcare providers in Limerick to treat patients on waiting lists:

Healthcare Provider	Specialty	Initiative
Bons Secours Hospital	Cataract Surgery	National Treatment Purchase Fund
Bons Secours Hospital	Pain Management procedures	National Treatment Purchase Fund
Bons Secours Hospital	Paediatric ENT	National Treatment Purchase Fund
Beacon Hospital	Cardiology Consultation and Diagnostics	Scheduled Care Transformation Programme
Beacon Hospital	Vascular Consultation and Diagnostics	Scheduled Care Transformation Programme
Beacon Hospital	Respiratory Diagnostics	Scheduled Care Transformation Programme
Laya Healthcare	Pain Management Consultation and procedures	Scheduled Care Transformation Programme

There are five scheduled care initiatives operating across UL Hospitals Group to address waiting lists. The NTPF initiative is on target to achieve more than 4,500 consultations across ten specialities by year-end. The NTPF is one of five initiatives in our Group designed to target both the longest waiters and urgent time-critical patients.

The initiatives are a mix of virtual and face to face consultations, procedures and diagnostics and are supported by numerous specialities across our hospital sites. The other four initiatives include:

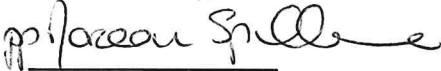
- The Advanced Clinical Prioritisation (ACP) initiative, which to date has delivered 8,047 virtual consultations and is expected to achieve 10,000 by year-end.
- The Scheduled Care Transformation Programme (SCTP), which was introduced this year as a once-off funding initiative providing out-of-hours consultations for additional activity within the Group. It is supported by twelve specialities. Since starting in April of this year, the initiative has delivered 4,048 consultations and procedures, and is forecast to achieve 6,000 by year-end.
- The Safety Net Agreement (SNA) initiative has delivered 6,802 consultations and procedures to date and has just recently come to an end.
- Access to Care was introduced in July of this year and will provide additional support to patients, including inpatient and day cases.

UL Hospitals Group continues to work on in-house initiatives and on facilitating care in the private sector. However, the current lack of private capacity in the Midwest, and difficulties for patients in travelling outside the region for consultation and procedures, mean that more sustainable solutions are necessary in the long-term.

For example, while numbers waiting for day case surgery have fallen, there has not been a corresponding decrease in numbers waiting for more complex inpatient surgeries that in this region must be carried out at UHL. This strengthens the case being made for an elective hospital in the MidWest.

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

Yours sincerely,



Prof Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group