



Príomhoifigeach Cliniciúil
Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Cliniciúil

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Catherine Connolly
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
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22nd September 2022

PQ45569/22-To ask the Minister for Health his plans to update the HSE guidelines on long-Covid to take into account research regarding the neurological symptoms of the disease; the engagement the HSE has had with infectious disease experts in the development of the Model of Care for long-Covid; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Connolly,

Thank you for your representation.

The HSE developed an Interim Model of Care for Long Covid that is being operationalised currently, and the HSE is implementing and resourcing the establishment of Post-Acute and Long Covid services across the country. The HSE is working closely with each of the Long Covid and Post-Acute hospital sites to expand the existing clinics to provide a full scope of care. Provision of new and additional resources to these clinics will ensure all services are operating to the same high standard of care. The services that these clinics will offer will include holistic, multi-disciplinary assessment and intervention, access to diagnostics and ongoing support and self-management for patients.

The Long Covid clinics that are currently operational include St Vincent's University Hospital, Beaumont Hospital and University Hospital Galway. The Post-Acute Covid clinics that are operational include University Hospital Galway and Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown. Both Tallaght University Hospital and St James's University are operating combined Post-Acute and Long Covid clinics.

The current Model of Care is an interim one, and services and supports may need to adapt and expand based on learnings from implementation, emerging evidence in relation to Long COVID and current and projected demand for all specialists and services, including neurology.

There has been a national lead in infectious diseases involved in the development of the model of care with engagement with clinical teams. The HSE has commissioned a review of the evidence regarding Long Covid, including Models of Care (MoC) in other jurisdictions, from HIQA. This, along with additional research that will be conducted by the HSE, will inform the development of services and a review of the current Interim Model of Care.

I hope this provides you with assistance.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO