



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta  
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Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte

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**Deputy Neasa Hourigan**

**Dáil Eireann,**

**Leinster House,**

**Dublin 2.**

**11<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**PQ 17053/23 - To ask the Minister for Health if funding has been allocated to the lymphoedema model of care to date; if so, the amount of funding that has been allocated, and in what years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Neasa Hourigan**

**Dear Deputy Hourigan,**

Following endorsement of the Lymphoedema /Lipoedema Model of Care (MOC) by the HSE in early 2019, approval was given by the HSE to move ahead with the planning for the MOC and initiate the implementation of the MOC through a Proof of Concept approach. This enabling approach commenced with 2 Proof of Concept sites – 1 Specialist Lymphoedema Clinic (SLC) in Primary Care and 1 early detection service in oncology and has further developed with 3 SLC's in the community and 2 early detection services in the acute hospitals currently.

The Proof of Concept services are funded on a temporary year to year basis through an allocation of €904,740.

In 2021 and 2022 €65,000 was allocated to education including specialist training to healthcare professionals and an education e-Learning module; communication and the development of the All Ireland Lymphoedema clinical guideline, 2022.

The first Specialist Lymphoedema Clinic opened in Clare in 2020 and to date there have been 328 patients seen and treated. The clinic in Meath opened in May 2021 and there have been 177 patients seen to date.

The clinic outcomes have demonstrated improved quality of life, improved access and high patient satisfaction. In the patients reviewed after the first 6 months of treatment there were 3 episodes of cellulitis compared to 49 in the previous year and 0 hospitalisations compared to 7 in the previous year. In addition, GP visits were reduced by 86% and PHN visits were reduced by 70%, resulting in reduced demand on acute and community services.

Permanent funding to enable the full roll out of the model of care in the order of €8M annually will be sought as part of the Estimates 2024 process.

I trust this is of assistance.

**Yours sincerely,**

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**Geraldine Crowley,**

**Assistant National Director,**

**Enhanced Community Care Programme &**

**Primary Care Contracts**