

CC/VAW /MC

Email: pqmidwestacute@hse.ie

28th February 2023

Mr Violet-Anne Wynne TD,
Dàil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 7732/23

To ask the Minister for Health if he will explain the decision not to provide additional resources at Ennis medical assessment unit following engagement of a new 112/999 pathway; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Violet-Anne Wynne

Dear Deputy Wynne,

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.

The Medical Assessment Unit (MAU) pathway for 112/999 patients commenced at Ennis Hospital on Monday, January 9th 2023.

It allows stable medical patients that meet the agreed clinical criteria to be treated in a Model 2 hospital. A key element is a telephone referral from the treating paramedic to the receiving MAU doctor, which ensures that the right patient is brought to the MAU.

This pathway will result in patients receiving medical treatment in a hospital closer to their home, will reduce patient presentations to Emergency Departments and will release ambulances more quickly to respond to other emergency calls. 112/999 patients that do not meet these clinical criteria will continue to be transported to Emergency Departments for assessment and treatment.

The Medical Assessment Unit in Ennis Hospital treats patients referred by GPs, ShannonDoc and now NAS paramedics.

The pathway was extended to Nenagh MAU on February 7th. It is envisaged that similar measures will be introduced at St John's MAU in the coming weeks.

Please note, the introduction of the new ambulance pathway at Ennis MAU did not require an expansion in physical capacity or the need for additional resources.

Seperately, we have recently submitted a bid to the HSE National Acute Division for €5.2m for additional resources to increase staffing across all three MAUs in our Model 2 Hospitals. Additional staff would allow us to extend the operating hours and open the Medical Assessment Units in Nenagh and St John's to 7 days a week and increase the number of slots currently available to GPs, ShannonDoc and NAS paramedics. The bid also includes permanent funding for Ennis MAU to secure the extended hours and weekend service into the future.

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