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3rd March 2023

Deputy Cairns
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 7755/23: To ask the Minister for Health the opening hours of each specialist menopause clinic by location in tabular form as of 1 February 2022

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

A key piece of work for the National Women's and Infants Health Programme for 2021 was working collaboratively with secondary care providers regarding the development of complex menopause clinics on a regional basis. While it is envisaged that the vast majority of care in the area of menopause should be provided for in the primary setting, these speciality clinics will provide care for those whose symptoms require more specialist interventions. These clinics will accept referrals from GPs in their surrounding catchment areas, providing specialist medical advice and management to a cohort of symptomatic menopausal women.

The development of this specialist service was planned to roll-out on a phased basis. The first site for this specialist service was the National Maternity Hospital and with support from NWIHP, this clinic is fully operational as of December 1st, 2021. In 2022, NWIHP funded a further five clinics; Galway, Limerick, the Coombe, The Rotunda, and Cork. The NWIHP intend to support these specialist services in developing national clinical guidance pertaining to the management of menopause and details regarding treatment options, supports available etc.

The resource package for each site funded by NWIHP included the provision for structured input of a Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist / General Practitioner specialised in the area of menopause, a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Menopause and an administrator.

The first clinic opened in NMH on 1st December 2021, followed by Nenagh, Coombe and the Rotunda in 2022. Galway and Cork are due to launch by Q1 2023. It is planned that each service will provide two medical led clinics per week. These clinics will be further augmented by CNS provided clinics and follow up. As such, NWIHP anticipate that each service will manage circa 400/500 new patients each year.

NWIHP will be establishing a network at national level composing of all six clinical leads with the development and deployment of these clinics being overseen in that structure.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



Mary-Jo Biggs, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme