

By email to matt.carthy@oireachtas.ie

20th January 2023

Mr. Matt Carthy, T.D,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: Parliamentary Question 1846/23 *“To ask the Minister for Health the treatments that are available at the accident and emergency or minor injuries unit at Dundalk Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Matt Carthy”*

Re: Parliamentary Question 1864/23 *“To ask the Minister for Health the inpatient services and inpatient surgical services that are available at Dundalk Hospital; the number of days that a patient can remain at the hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Matt Carthy”*

Dear Deputy Carthy,

The RCSI Hospital Group 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. Having reviewed the matter, the following outlines the position.

The Louth Injury Unit treats the following:

Adult Patients:

- suspected broken bones to legs, from knees to toes
- suspected broken bones to arms, from collarbone (clavicle) to fingertips
- all sprains and strains
- minor facial injuries (including oral, dental and nasal injuries)
- minor scalds and burns
- wounds, bites, cuts, grazes and scalp lacerations
- small abscesses and boils
- splinters and fish hooks
- foreign bodies in eyes/ears/nose
- minor head injury (fully-conscious patients, who did not experience loss of consciousness or have more than one episode of vomiting after the head injury)

Children aged 5 and older:

- suspected broken bones to legs, from knees to toes
- suspected broken bones to arms, from collarbone (clavicle) to fingertips
- any sprain or strain
- minor facial injuries (including oral, dental and nasal injuries)
- minor scalds and burns
- wounds, bites, cuts, grazes and scalp lacerations
- splinters and fish hooks

- foreign bodies in eyes/ears/nose
- minor head injury (fully-conscious children, who did not experience loss of consciousness or vomit after the head injury)

Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda and Louth County Hospital, Dundalk operate conjointly, with an integrated managerial and clinical governance system, care pathways and support functions.

Louth County Hospital, Dundalk is a Model 2, 90 bedded Hospital and in line with the Smaller Hospitals Framework, has a Minor Injuries Unit located on site which provide an important service to the local community.

There are 29 day beds and 61 inpatient beds that provide palliative, step down and rehabilitation care. There is a Louth County Hospital cross site endoscopy waiting list and this service ensures that the patients from the Louth/Meath area have equal access to treatment. The Endoscopy Unit in Louth County Hospital has been accredited as a National Colorectal Screening Centre.

The other services provided in Louth County Hospital include venesection, diabetes (incorporating Diabetic Unit / Day Centre, Diabetic Nurse Specialists, Ante-Natal Diabetic Nurse Specialist, Dietician and Podiatrist), ophthalmology, outpatient clinics and elderly assessment service. There is direct access from General Practitioners (GPs) to the Consultant Geriatrician Lead Elderly Assessment Service and services were transferred from Drogheda to Dundalk in 2010. This service provides a one stop assessment for GP referrals for access to assessment by Medical, Health & Social Care Professionals and specialist nurses.

Bed Capacity - Louth County Hospital, Dundalk

Number of Inpatient Beds				
Year	2020	2021	2022	Change from end 2020
Number of beds	61	60	61	-

Number of Day Beds				
Year	2020	2021	2022	Change from end 2020
Number of beds	25	25	29	+4

We trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



June Molloy
Communications Manager
RCSI Hospital Group