

By email to [matt.carthy@oireachtas.ie](mailto:matt.carthy@oireachtas.ie)

20<sup>th</sup> January 2023

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

**Re: Parliamentary Question 1841/23** *“To ask the Minister for Health the treatments that are available at the accident and emergency department or the minor injuries unit at Monaghan Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Matt Carthy”*

**Re: Parliamentary Question 1859/23** *“To ask the Minister for Health the in-patient services and inpatient surgical services that are available at Monaghan 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 Monaghan 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)

Cavan General Hospital and Monaghan Hospital are 46 km apart and they operate as a single hospital, with an integrated managerial and clinical governance system, care pathways and support functions. Cavan General and Monaghan Hospital currently provide services to the population of both counties and its catchment area extends to counties Meath, Longford and Leitrim.

Cavan General Hospital is a Level 3 hospital and Monaghan Hospital is a Level 2 hospital. All acute in-patient services are based in Cavan General Hospital. Both Hospital sites provide extensive outpatient, theatre and day services. Cavan General Hospital is a teaching hospital with links to the Royal College of Surgeons, Royal College of Physicians and the Dundalk Institute of Technology.

#### Smaller Hospitals Framework

The Smaller Hospitals Framework defines the role of smaller hospitals and outlines the need for smaller hospitals and larger hospitals to operate within Hospital Groups. The Framework identifies the activities that can be performed in smaller Model 2 hospitals, like Monaghan Hospital, in a safe and sustainable manner. These include extended day surgery, selected acute medicine, a local minor injuries service, a large range of diagnostic services, specialist rehabilitation medicine and palliative care. In developing our smaller hospitals, the first and over-riding concern is the safety of patients

To note, Monaghan Hospital has seen a number of new Initiatives as follows:

- The opening of a second endoscopy room
- Establishment of a 3<sup>rd</sup> Ultrasound room
- The opening of a 3<sup>rd</sup> ward consisting of 18 stepdown beds
- The development of Haemochromatosis Services for the Cavan Monaghan Hospital Catchment area on Monaghan site

#### Bed Capacity – Monaghan Hospital

Number of Inpatient beds				
Category	2020	2021	2022	Change from end 2020
Number of beds	31	36	52	+21

Number of Day beds				
Category	2020	2021	2022	Change from end 2020
Number of beds	12	16	16	+4

We trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



June Molloy  
Communications Manager  
RCSI Hospital Group