



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Oibríochtaí
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta
Bloc 4, Lárionad Gnó,
Tulach Mhór,
Co. Uíbh Fhailí, R35 FH59

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30th January 2023

Deputy Martin Browne
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 2532/23

To ask the Minister for Health the resources that will be made available to implement the new protocol that would allow the National Ambulance Service to bring certain patients to the medical assessment unit, Nenagh; the needs that he foresees Nenagh as needing to address this new demand; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Martin Browne

Dear Deputy Browne,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) National Ambulance Service (NAS) 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 introduced in January 2023 in Roscommon University Hospital and Ennis Hospital was first successfully trialled in Mallow General Hospital in 2022. It allows stable medical patients that meet the agreed clinical criteria to be treated in a Model 2 hospital. A total of 29 patients were transported to Mallow General Hospital instead of Cork University Hospital during the three month trial.

The MAUs launched in hospitals treats patients referred by GPs, out of hours services (ShannonDoc, WestDoc etc.), and now National Ambulance Service Paramedics. It is essential that unwell medical patients do not attend the MAU without a referral.

These pathways 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 HSE will closely monitor the impact of these pathways and consider further MAUs in Nenagh and other relevant hospitals.





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I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

William Merriman
Director of Operations
National Ambulance Service

