



Oifig um Cheannasaí Seirbhíse do Chúram Príomhúil  
Cúram Sláinte Phobail FSS an Mheán Iarthair  
Ascaill Bhaile Choimín,  
Páirc Gnó an Ráithín, Ráithín  
Luimneach  
Teil: 061 483722

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HSE Mid West Community Healthcare  
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1<sup>st</sup> February 2023

**Deputy Michael McNamara**  
**Dáil Éireann**  
**Leinster House**  
**Kildare St., Dublin 2**

**Re: PQ 4107/23 - *“To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the new chronic disease management hub in Ennis in respect of services currently provided, the roll-out of additional services, and staffing details of the hub; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”***

Dear Deputy McNamara,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

I can confirm that the Chronic Disease Hub became operational in December 2022 at the Primary Care Centre, Station Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

A total of 21.7 WTE have been assigned to the Chronic Disease Team in Co. Clare. The following staff/disciplines (10 WTE) are currently in post:

- The Operational Lead, Project Officer and 1.5 WTE of the administrative staff
- Two Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) for Diabetes . The CNSs are providing community based clinical advice and education services to Type II Diabetics in the Chronic Disease Hub in Ennis, in General Practitioner (GP) practices in West Clare and in Kilrush Health Centre.
- One Clinical Nurse Specialist in Cardiology who is currently supporting a Cardiology Pilot service in Limerick and will extend to Co. Clare in due course.
- A Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist in Respiratory and a Senior Respiratory Physiotherapist who are currently delivering an eight week Pulmonary Rehab Programme in the Ennis Chronic Disease Hub to 25 patients. The team have also supported a GP Respiratory Pilot Programme based in Nth. Tipperary with plans to commence this service in Co. Clare by the end of Q1 2023.
- A total of 1.5 WTE Chronic Disease Podiatrists are currently in post and are providing podiatry services to diabetic clients in the Hub and across Health Centres in Co. Clare. The team consists of one Clinical Specialist Podiatrist, one Senior Podiatrist and one Staff Grade Podiatrist.
- A Senior Dietitian commenced in January 2023. Diabetes Self Management Education Services and one to one appointments are planned to commence in February 2023.

- Other posts at an advanced stage of recruitment include a third Diabetic CNS, a Senior Physiotherapist and Respiratory and Cardiology CNSs.
- A Diabetes Education workshop for patients with Type II Diabetes is planned for Ennis in March 2023. This will allow patients meet the Diabetes Chronic Disease Team and get information on Health Promotion Services and education on their condition.
- A Consultant in Cardiology has accepted the post and should commence by the end of Q2. This post has a 0.5 WTE remit to Cardiology Services in the community across the Mid West and will strengthen chronic disease cardiology services in Co. Clare.

It is difficult to say when the full Chronic Disease team will be in place as some grades of posts are proving challenging to recruit and recruitment is ongoing for all grades of staff.

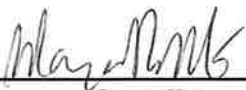
Additional Chronic Disease Integrated Care Clinical and Diagnostic posts are being recruited for the region through the University Hospital Limerick Group which will have a commitment to the Chronic Disease Services in Co. Clare. These posts include:

- A Consultant in Respiratory Medicine with a Special Interest in Chronic Disease
- Cardiac and Respiratory Physiologists and administrative support.
- A Senior Medical Laboratory Scientist has commenced and as a result, NTproBNP blood screening is now available to GPs in Co. Clare.

I can also advise that the Health Promotion services have expanded and will support the Chronic Disease services by providing additional preventative programmes such as “*Making Every Contact Count*”, which is a programme that builds the capacity of healthcare workers to signpost and/or refer patients to preventative programmes. Five *Quit Mid West* - Stop Smoking Clinics are running weekly in Co. Clare, in Kilrush, Ennis, Ennistymon and Shannon. A “*Self Management Support Programme*” for empowering those living with a Chronic Disease to self manage their condition took place in September 2022 in Ennis. Further programmes are planned for Kilkee, Ennis and other locations throughout Co. Clare in 2023.

I trust this information addresses the issues raised in your representation.

**Yours sincerely,**



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**Margaret Costello**  
**Head of Service**  
**Primary Care**