

CC/MMcN /MC

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13th February 2023

Mr Michael McNamara TD,
Dàil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 4109/23

To ask the Minister for Health the additional resources and personnel that have been deployed at Ennis Hospital in light of the decision to facilitate and treat non-urgent 112 and 999 patients being transported by ambulance to the facility; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael McNamara

Dear Deputy McNamara

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.

The Medical Assessment Unit (MAU) pathway for 112/999 patients commenced at Ennis Hospital on Monday, January 9th 2023.

It allows stable medical patients that meet the agreed clinical criteria to be treated in a Model 2 hospital. A key element is a telephone referral from the treating paramedic to the receiving MAU doctor, which ensures that the right patient is brought to the MAU.

This pathway 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 Medical Assessment Unit in Ennis Hospital treats patients referred by GPs, ShannonDoc and now NAS paramedics.

The pathway was extended to Nenagh MAU on February 7th. It is envisaged that similar measures will be introduced at St John's MAU in the coming weeks.

Please note, the introduction of the new ambulance pathway at Ennis MAU did not require an expansion in physical capacity or the need for additional resources.



Working together, caring for you

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I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

pp Colette Cowan

Prof Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group

