

CC/MB/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

02nd August 2023

Mr Martin Browne TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ 33619/23

To ask the Minister for Health when the membership and the review of the terms of reference of the Deteriorating Patient Steering Committee at UHL will be concluded; the progress made to date; the measures taken to ensure appropriate implementation of the Irish National Early Warning System, the Irish Maternity Early Warning System and sepsis management; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Browne,

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.

I can advise that the review of the membership and terms of reference of the Deteriorating Patient Steering Committee at University Hospital Limerick was completed in May 2023. Please note the membership of this committee changes over time as staff take up new roles and are replaced on the committee by suitably experienced clinical staff and senior managers.

Sub-groups of the Deteriorating Patient Steering Committee have been established to oversee the rollout of training on sepsis and the various early warning systems used across the HSE. These sub-groups report into the Steering Committee.

In this manner, the committee ensures the implementation of the relevant early warning systems. Staff training on these early warning systems is ongoing with an increased focus in the last number of months on the following:

- The Irish National Early Warning System (INEWS)

- The Irish Maternity Early Warning System (IMEWS)
- The Paediatric Early Warning System (PEWS)

This training has been complemented by the completion of audits to ensure compliance with the national guidance.

As set out in the compliance plan included in the HIQA inspection report published on June 23rd last, training has commenced on the Emergency Medicine Early Warning System (EMEWS) and is now well advanced at UHL. More than 70 staff in our ED have been trained in this system to date and we expect this training will be fully implemented in the ED by September/October as we increase the complement of nursing staff in line with the Safer Staffing initiative.

Sepsis training is ongoing across the Group with a particular focus on our Emergency Department. Our Model 2 hospital sites in Ennis, Nenagh and St John's also participate in sepsis training, delivered most recently throughout the month of May.

In June we held an education day on sepsis, on the National Early Warning System and on audit. This education day will be repeated in September.

To ensure compliance and to complement our training programmes, audits are completed regularly.

UL Hospitals Group has only recently participated in the National Sepsis Audit which included four wards in University Hospital Limerick and wards in all our Model 2 hospitals.

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

Yours sincerely,



Professor Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group