



**Cúram Sláinte
Phobail, Iarthar**
ag freastal ar Ghailimh,
Maighéo agus Ros Comáin

**Community
Healthcare West**
serving Galway, Mayo
and Roscommon

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**Mark Warde
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ ref 34295/23

To ask the Minister for Health the visiting hours policies for Roscommon University Hospital psychiatry services; how this compares to other hospital psychiatry visiting policies; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Warde,

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 have examined the matter and the following outlines the position;

Visiting arrangements have changed since the relaxation of Covid restrictions. Now the Roscommon Acute Unit facilitates visiting between the hours of 14:00 and 16:30 and between 18:00 and 19:10 on a daily basis. Six visiting slots are available each day with a ten minutes allocated between each visit to allow for cleaning and room preparation. Roscommon Acute Unit has a twice weekly Mutual Help Meeting for the residents in the Unit. The feedback on the visiting system from residents attending the Mutual Help Meetings has been very positive. Patients report that visiting periods of more than 30 minutes can be very draining and do not always promote recovery. Patients advised that the current arrangement allows for quality time with family and visitors while also facilitating access to therapeutic activities and groups on the ward.

In addition to the above, the service can and will facilitate visiting outside of the above times when required. This may necessitate a conversation with the patient, with the nursing staff or in some cases the Multidisciplinary Team prior to a decision being made to arrange such visits.

In general visiting times would reflect the practicalities of the particular Unit as well as the feedback and views of the residents.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Jackson
A/Head of Mental Health Services
Community Healthcare West