

CC/MB/MC

Email: pqmidwestacute@hse.ie

26th July 2023

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

RE: PQ 33594/23

To ask the Minister for Health to provide details of the progress made in extending the usage MAUs and LIUs at model 2 hospitals in the mid-west; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Martin Browne

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.

Our Injury Units in St John's Hospital, Ennis Hospital and Nenagh Hospital are open every day for minor injuries in adults and children aged 5 and upwards.

Last year, our Injury Units had their busiest year to date. During 2022, a total of 38,523 patients attended our Injury Units in Ennis, Nenagh and St John's, representing a 30% increase on 2021. In addition, up to the end of June 2023, there have been 23,587 attendances across our three Injury Units which are playing an important role in ED avoidance

Any consideration of changes in criteria or hours of operations for Injury Units will be made following a review of all Injury Units currently being undertaken by the HSE. This review is examining how we can maximise the use of injury units both in terms of both the types of patients seen and also the geographical spread.

As you are aware, recent funding approval of €5.2m by the HSE's National Acute Division has allowed the Medical Assessment Units at St John's, Ennis and Nenagh hospitals to move to a seven-day service.

Recruitment is underway for an additional 51.45 WTE across a number of specialties for our MAU services. Additional resources will include medical doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, health and social care professionals and administrative staff.

As more of these staff take up post, the number of additional slots available for medical assessment will increase. Once all staff are in post, the overall effect of this investment will be the creation of an additional 7,176 slots per annum across the three sites.

In addition, the Medical Assessment Unit (MAU) Pathway for 112/999 patients in Ennis and Nenagh Hospitals is being extended to St John's Hospital from Thursday, July 27th.

This initiative, managed locally by UL Hospitals Group and the National Ambulance Service (NAS), allows for stable medical patients meeting the clinical criteria to be treated in Model 2 hospitals, with telephone referral from treating paramedics ensuring that the right patients are brought to MAUs.

The units provide diagnosis and treatment for patients referred with medical conditions including chest infections, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), pneumonia, urinary tract infections, fainting episodes, clots in the leg, anaemia or non-acute cardiac problems. In 2022, 12,737 patients were referred to the MAUs in our three hospitals.

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

Yours sincerely,



Prof Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group