

CC/CC/MC

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21st March 2023

Mr Cathal Crowe TD,
Dàil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ 11937/23

To ask the Minister for Health if the new protocol introduced in the University of Limerick Hospital Group in January 2023, whereby ambulances could bring patients to the medical assessment unit of Ennis General Hospital instead of the UHL emergency department, could be further extended so as to also include the local injuries unit at Ennis General Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Cathal Crowe

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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.

There are no plans in place for Injury Units to accept patients transferred by ambulance. This is in line with national policy. Injury Units operate a walk in service for minor injuries (examples listed below) and these are not typically the types of injuries that require conveyancing to hospital via ambulance.

Ennis Injury Unit had its busiest year to date last year. During 2022, a total of 11,854 patients attended the service there, representing a 25% increase on 2021. Our three Injury Units at Ennis, Nenagh and St John's collectively saw 38,523 patients last year, representing a 30% increase on 2021.

The Injury Unit teams are composed of emergency medicine physicians, advanced nurse practitioners, nurses, health care assistants and administrative support, working together to provide a high quality and timely service for people with a wide range of non-emergency injuries including:


- broken bones to legs, from knees to toes
- broken bones to arms, from collarbone (clavicle) to fingertips
- all sprains and strains
- minor facial injuries (including oral, dental and nasal injuries)
- minor scalds and burns
- wounds, bites, cuts, grazes and scalp lacerations (cuts)
- small abscesses and boils

- splinters and fish hooks
- things stuck in eyes, ears or nose
- minor head injuries (fully-conscious patients, who did not have loss of consciousness or vomit after the head injury)

Separately, the HSE is carrying out a review of all local injury units to look at how we can maximise these both clinically in terms of the patients that we see in there but also in terms of identifying other locations that would benefit from this around the country.

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