



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta  
Géaroibríochtaí

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Deputy Bernard Durkan  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

13<sup>th</sup> April 2023

***PQ 15576/23- To ask the Minister for Health the plans, if any, for a minor injuries unit in north County Kildare, with particular reference to rapid population growth in this area, that many GPs are not taking on new patients, and the need to free up the local emergency department services for more urgent cases; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Bernard J. Durkan***

Dear Deputy Durkan,

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 National Emergency Medicine Programme (EMP) Model of Care includes the development and support of Injury Units, allowing for the safe provision of care for many injuries that are unlikely to require same-day hospital admission. They are designed to provide the same level of care as would be available for their condition as an Emergency Department (ED), but more locally and with a shorter waiting time. More minor injuries can be dealt with in GP surgeries.

It is important to have a named Consultant in Emergency Medicine in an ED providing clinical governance and other professional supports to an Injury Unit. An essential requirement, apart from appropriately trained doctors or advanced nurse practitioners, for the establishment of an Injury Unit is exclusive access during the hours of opening to appropriate clinical spaces proportionate to the anticipated number of patients attending and on-site access to x-ray facilities that allow for the performance of limb x-rays. The establishment of future LIUs would require consideration through the appropriate HSE channels.

The establishment of Local Injury Units (LIUs) and Medical Assessment Units (MAUs) has been a much-needed addition in the provision of emergency care across Ireland, however there is variation in the activity and operations of these units. There are many factors that are influencing this, including staffing, physical infrastructure, public knowledge of services and clinical pathways with primary care and Model 3 and 4 hospitals in the area.

In order to better understand the capacity and capability of the LIUs and MAUs in the Model 2 Hospitals a detailed assessment of these units commenced in Q4 2022. The project is due to conclude by end of April 2023. The primary objective of this piece of work is to understand the activity and operations of IUs and MAUs across the country and to identify key findings and insights to inform future planning regarding utilisation, operations, staffing and governance.



It is envisaged that this assessment will help to identify areas of good practice and ultimately inform acute and community care strategy and planning in these areas.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nessa Lynch', written over a horizontal line.

**Nessa Lynch**  
**General Manager**  
**Acute Operations**