

CC/ML/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

13th November 2023

Mr Michael Lowry TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 43973/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of days from January 2022 to the end of September 2023 during which radiation oncology services at University Hospital Limerick were unavailable due to breakdowns in radiotherapy machinery/equipment, in tabular form; the average duration required to repair radiotherapy machinery/equipment at UHL; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael Lowry

Dear Deputy Lowry,

Radiation oncology services at University Hospital Limerick are provided by the Mater Private Network.

Please find attached correspondence from Mr Hugh Healy, Director of Cancer, Mater Private Network regarding your query.

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

MEMO

DATE: AUG/23

SUBJECT: MID-WESTERN REGIONAL ONCOLOGY CENTRE UPDATE

Since MPN began treatment at the Mid-Western Regional Oncology Centre, over 13,500 patients have been treated in our facilities.

This year we have invested ~€5.5m in the upgrading of a CT machine (completed) and a linear accelerator (completed). We replaced the older of two linear accelerators in the facility so that we could increase our capacity, and the level of service, offered to the residents in the region of Limerick and the Mid-West.

Following an aggressive program of works, we went live with a new machine in the Limerick Centre in the first week of July. The new machine, a Varian Halcyon, is the newest machine platform available from the manufacturer and is the first in Ireland. This has increased our capacity by 50% compared to the older machine (decommissioned on the 3rd of April).

The facility operated an 8am to 10pm shift pattern, 5 days a week, during the linear accelerator upgrade to maintain service levels and to mitigate the inconvenience of any deferred treatments. All patients referred are treated in order of clinical need.

The Mid-Western Regional Oncology centre continues to work closely with referring clinicians and patients to keep everyone informed of developments on site.

We are dedicated to the ongoing care of patients in need of radiation oncology services in Limerick and the Mid-West, now and into the future. We believe it is important that patients be able to access these services locally, and we will continue to invest in our services for the benefit of everyone in the region.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Healy
Director of Cancer, MPN