



**Ceann Seirbhíse, Cúraim Príomhúil**  
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Cabhán Dún na nGall  
Liatroim Muineachán, Sligeach  
An Clochar, Sráid an Choláiste, Béal Átha  
Seanaidh, Co Dhun na nGall, F94 TPX4

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Deputy Joe McHugh  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
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**PQ ref 46450/23** - *“To ask the Minister for Health if the option is available for suitable patients in County Donegal in need of intravenous therapy to be facilitated in their own community setting (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*

*\*example\* - one patient in Donegal being admitted to hospital for a period of two-three weeks, to have an IV drip administered for a foot ulcer, but otherwise in good health, not in need of other hospital care - could be facilitated in his own community, rather than remaining in hospital for this period*

Dear Deputy McHugh

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 for Community Healthcare Cavan Donegal Leitrim Monaghan Sligo.

The option to administer IV antibiotic therapy in the home setting in Co. Donegal is currently being developed as part of a joint initiative between Donegal Primary Care Services and Letterkenny University Hospital (LUH).

Administration of IV antibiotic therapy in the home must be set up safely and a clear clinical and professional governance structure put in place. Primary Care Community Intervention Team (CIT) nurses have been receiving training in Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT). This competency-based training will ensure CIT nurses have the proficiency in administering IV antibiotics and the clinical governance structure in place for this task, thus allowing patients who are medically stable but who need short-to-long-term intravenous (IV) antibiotic treatment to be safely treated at home or in an outpatient setting.

A new CIT Coordinator has recently been appointed to the service in LUH. The CIT Coordinator will signpost patients as appropriate and act as a liaison between relevant Primary Care and acute services. Policies and procedures are also being finalised to ensure a safe, evidence-based OPAT service is developed and delivered to meet the needs of patients throughout Co. Donegal. The commencement date to deliver IV antibiotic treatment in the home or clinic setting will be finalised once policies and procedures have been approved by all stakeholders.

*Kindly note, this response was held due to Fórsa Industrial Action which has now been lifted.*

I trust that this is of assistance, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely

**Mandy Doyle**  
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