

Deputy Jennifer Murnane O'Connor T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2
E: jennifer.murnaneconnor@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ no: 16601/24 - Staff in Paediatric Diabetes Clinic – St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny

Dear Deputy Murnane O'Connor

I refer to the recent representation made to St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny, which has been referred for direct response.

To ask the Minister for Health the number of staff at St Luke's, Kilkenny paediatric diabetes clinic; if his Department is aware that all new insulin pumps have been put on hold as they no longer have the staff to facilitate training and after care; to provide an estimated timeline on the recruitment of new staff; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Jennifer Murnane O'Connor

I have had this matter examined and am advised that we currently have the following staff allocated to Diabetes in SLK:

1 RANP Integrated Care 50/50 Acute / Community – allocated to the treatment of Type 2 Diabetes

1cANP Hospital based – undertaking training for RANP role for Type 2 Diabetes.

1CNS – with responsibility for both Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes (working 4 days per week)

2 staff nurses with responsibility for Type 1 and 2 Diabetes (working 4 days per week each)

1 staff nurse with responsibility for Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes (working 3 days per week)

1 staff nurse undertaking the post graduate course for CNS (requires full time supervision).

Their roles provide care to inpatients and outpatients attending clinics. It is planned to redeploy 2 other nurses in the coming weeks for training in the care of Diabetes patients. All nurses with the exception of the ANP grades and the trainee deliver care to both paediatric and adult patients.

Following the loss of two Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) in the Diabetes service (CNSs) in late 2023, St Luke's General Hospital Carlow/Kilkenny has been actively trying to recruit an appropriate replacement.

A successful candidate is due to take up the post in the coming weeks. As a result, the Ireland East Hospital Group and St Luke's Hospital are hopeful that the Paediatric Diabetic Service can resume over the summer.


There is no issue with access to the appropriate medical equipment, such as insulin pumps. The current issue is around the training of staff in the appropriate discipline. Once that is resolved the Choice training can restart. The Choice Training is a structured education programme for patients and parents/carers. It is the gold standard for patient education prior to commencing on an insulin pump.

There are currently 14 paediatric patients awaiting the Choice programme prior to the introduction of the pump.

The Ireland East Hospital Group and St Luke's Hospital understands that this situation is unsatisfactory, however the staff are doing everything possible to have the Paediatric Diabetic Services operational as soon as possible.

I trust this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely


Niamh Lacey
Hospital Manager
St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny