



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

Head of Service, Primary Care
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27th February 2024

Deputy Pearse Doherty
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ ref 9710/24 “To ask the Minister for Health if he can provide assurances that vital services such as physiotherapy and occupational therapy service, and current bed numbers, will remain at Saint Joseph’s Community Hospital in Donegal in the long term; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Doherty

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.

Following an inspection undertaken by HIQA, essential fire upgrade works were identified that needed to be completed within a specified timeframe to ensure that HIQA requirements are met and the hospital remains fully operational.

In order to complete these works, there was a requirement for patients to be relocated within the hospital and the most suitable area identified was the Primary Care Physiotherapy department (formerly known as Drogheda Ward).

Primary Care Physiotherapy services will continue to be provided to the residents of St Joseph’s Hospital. There are no waiting lists in the hospital and physiotherapy intervention is provided based on the patients’s clinical requirements. Bed numbers continue to be retained to facilitate short-stay admission from the acute sector to ensure that the continuity of hospital discharges and patient flow from Letterkenny University Hospital is maintained. There are currently 33 long-term beds in St. Joseph’s and it is not envisioned that there will be any loss of beds following the refurbishment, i.e. the 33 beds will remain.

The Phyiotherapy Department in St Joseph’s also provide an outpatient service to the community. However, because of the urgent need for clinically safe accommodation required to delivery this service, Primary Care Physiotherapy have temporarily relocated to alternative accommodation as an interim solution.

From Monday, 26th February 2024, Primary Care Physiotherapy Services will be delivered from the following locations:



- Donegal Town Community Hospital (for patients residing in Altapaste, Cloghan, Cappry, Goland, Knock & Stranorlar ED areas)
- Lifford Community Hospital (for patients residing in Convoy, Gleneely, Killygordon and Drumkeen ED areas)

The services have communicated with affected service users advising on which centre to attend for appointment and they have notified all other stakeholders of the relocation.

From Tuesday 27th February 2024, please contact 074 974 0623 to speak to a Physiotherapist.

In the longer term, work is ongoing to secure suitable appropriate accommodation in the Finn Valley area to enable Primary Care Physiotherapy Services to be restored to the local area as soon as possible.

Occupational Therapy Services are a home-based service and will not be impacted by this move.

Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused as a result these upgrade works.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mandy Doyle".

Mandy Doyle
Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Cúram Príomhúil
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Cabhán Dún na nGall Liatroim Muineachán Sligeach

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