

CC/MMcN /MD

Email: pqmidwestacute@hse.ie

27th June 2024

Mr Michael McNamara TD
Dàil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ 28206/24

To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the proposed provision and operation of a satellite dialysis unit in Ennis Hospital, County Clare; the reason for any delay in progressing the proposal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael McNamara

Dear Deputy McNamara,

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.

We continue to seek to establish a haemodialysis service in Ennis. We envisage that this unit will be similar to the satellite centre already in place in the Fresenius Medical Care Centre, Limerick.

The tender process for the contracted satellite haemodialysis unit in Ennis is now complete and we have identified a supplier. HSE Mid West has identified funding to support the commencement of this vital service in the interim in 2025. As the contract value is in the region of €3m per annum and the total amount of the contract exceeds what can be approved locally, a number of steps to finalise the arrangements are ongoing.

Governance of this unit will be provided for by UL Hospitals Group with a designated Consultant Nephrologist from the Renal Unit at University Hospital Limerick providing the overall clinical governance.

The development of the unit in Ennis will allow patients to benefit from better quality of life by being able to avail of treatments closer to home. It will also help ease pressure on the Renal Department at University Hospital Limerick and on the satellite unit in the Fresenius Medical Care Centre, Limerick.

The tender specification document provides for four isolation rooms, a gowning area suitable for patients with blood-borne viral illnesses including Hepatitis B in line with national guidelines and would facilitate 1:1 and 1:2 nursing.

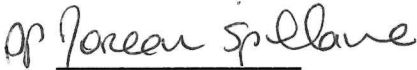
It is envisaged that the satellite facility will provide the following services:

- Consultant-directed medical care for chronic haemodialysis patients.
- Nurse-delivered / supervised haemodialysis delivery and care with regular consultant led reviews
- Regular dietetic review and support
- Other clinical supports as required, such as pharmacy services
- Administrative support

We are committed to working with all relevant stakeholders to ensure the delivery of this unit.

I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group