



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
D08 W2A8.

Office of the Head of Operations,
Community Operations - Primary Care

Rm 243, Dr Steevens Hospital,
Steevens Lane, Dublin 8. D08 W2A8.

www.hse.ie
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)

T: 01 6352209/2682
E: community.primarycare@hse.ie

15th May 2024

Deputy Ó Ríordáin,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 20301/24 - To ask the Minister for Health if his Department will provide details on the future investment plans for the national outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy programme; and if the special delivery unit within the HSE is planning to expand the national OPAT and community intervention team service for patients.

-Aodhán Ó Ríordáin

Dear Deputy Ó Ríordáin,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 20301/24) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT) is the delivery of intravenous (IV) antimicrobials in the community or outpatient setting, as an alternative to inpatient care.

The National OPAT Programme was established in 2011 to ensure the safe, appropriate and cost-effective use of OPAT (Home IV antibiotics). The OPAT programme allows for suitable patients on IV antibiotics to be discharged early from hospital to be treated in their home or community setting. The aim of OPAT is to ensure that no patient receiving antimicrobials, who could be treated out of hospital, remains in hospital.

Investment in the National OPAT Programme is currently underway through National Procurement projects for the provision of the following:

- (a) Management Control Centre for Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy Services
- (b) Compounded Medications & Associated Services for Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy Services
- (c) Compounded Medications & Associated Services for Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy Services

Contracts are projected to be awarded by end of Q4 2024. The investment within the programme will be reflective of the projected 10% growth in OPAT activity for the next number of years.

I trust the above is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations

