



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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27<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Deputy Nash,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 21548/24 To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide information on the future investment planned for the national OPAT programme; if there are plans within the special delivery unit of the HSE, to expand the national OPAT and CIT service; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**- Ged Nash**

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Dear Deputy Nash,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (21548/24) 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:

- Management Control Centre for Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy Services
- Compounded Medications & Associated Services for Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy Services
- 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 growth in OPAT activity for the next number of years

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Seán McArt**  
General Manager Primary Care  
National Community Operations