



Ceanncheathrú Otharchair
Aonad 5a, Páirc Ghnó Fáinne Theas
Bóthar Chionn tSáile
Corcaigh

Ambulance Headquarters
Unit 5a, South Ring Business Park
Kinsale Road
Cork

Ref: RM/ PQ 41471/25

13th August 2025

Deputy Thomas Gould
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 41471/25

To ask the Minister for Health the reason the Erinville ambulance base has been authorised for controlled drugs when the St Mary's Health Campus ambulance base is not authorised for same. -Thomas Gould

Dear Deputy Gould

The Health Service Executive (HSE) National Ambulance Service (NAS) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above parliamentary question which you submitted to the Minister for response.

NAS Southwest currently bases its Alternative Pathways Team in the Erinville Campus, with services provided:

- The Pathfinder Service
- The APP Car Service
- The Community Paramedic Service

Our Alternative Pathways Team are focused on keeping patients in their own homes. Our APP Car service, for example, has a non-conveyance rate of 70%, providing much relief to our Emergency Departments and allowing Emergency Ambulances to be prioritised for high acuity needs.

A review of service capacity noted that the Advanced Paramedic with Pathfinder, had to travel to the Cork City Ambulance station to access controlled drugs, which resulted in eight hours per week of lost service. In close coordination with the NAS Pharmacist, controlled drugs were approved as a pilot for storage within the Alternative Pathway Hub in line with our Drugs Management Policy and supervision from a Cork City Supervisor.

The addition of a controlled drug safe is in compliance with the specific conditions described in the Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) Regulations 1982 and the Group Authority License issued by the HPRA in compliance with the Misuse of Drugs Act 1977. Its function is safe custody and not stock replenishment.



The Drug bag holding room is in compliance with National Ambulance Service Medicines Management policy. The facility in the Erinville building appropriate for overnight safe custody of medicine, it is not a NAS designated drug room. The pilot use of this facility is approved by the NAS pharmacist pending further approval by the Director of Operations.

The facility in St Marys Hospital is currently a Deployment point. In line with national policy, these facilities are not designated to hold or store medicines. The storage and refill of medicines for this campus will remain with the Cork City station.

As referenced previously in PQ19468/25, St Marys Deployment Point continues to be crewed as an integral component of the unified city-wide service roster by day and night. However, under advice from the NAS Pharmacist, it is not possible to store drugs in compliance with Drugs Management Policy at St Marys campus.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Moriarty
General Manager
National Ambulance Service
RHA D
(Cork & Kerry)

