



***Hospital Manager's Office  
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21<sup>st</sup> March 2025

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

**PQ : 10170/25**

**To ask the Minister for Health the action taken, and planned, to address the fact that only 30% of patients in Donegal receive day-case chemotherapy within the target time of three weeks, due to capacity constraints at Letterkenny University Hospital; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Pearse Doherty**

Dear Deputy Doherty

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The LUH Haematology / Oncology Day Ward is particularly challenged with respect to meeting the KPI targets for SACT start times. We have been working with the Saolta Cancer MCAN to address this situation.

The NCCP recommend that 80% of all patients referred should commence their chemotherapy within 15 working days of decision to treat at their Outpatient appointment. .Currently all patients awaiting a start date for chemotherapy are scheduled. In February 66% of patients received their chemotherapy within the recommended KPI.

The engagement between the Group MCAN and the hospital has concluded that there are multiple factors contributing to the delays in SACT start times. These range from capacity deficits in the face of increasing demand and practice and process factors within the current service delivery model at LUH. In order to address these challenges as effectively and as timely as possible we have established a small Working Group comprised of the members of the Group MCAN Management Team and Hospital Clinical and Management Teams which have commenced instigating measures to improve



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chemotherapy start times with the objective of returning performance to KPI targets within the shortest possible timeline.

This includes the high risk cancer patients who are commencing the SACT therapy on an inpatient basis.

We have an area within the inpatient ward which has been designated as a Day Unit extension where patients can have their SACT treatment and be counted in the KPI rather than requiring admission as an inpatient. This will have a limited impact but will provide some immediate improvement in KPI performance.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

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**Seán Murphy  
Hospital Manager  
Letterkenny General Hospital**