



**Oifig an Stiúrthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta**  
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**Deputy Colm Burke**  
**Dáil Eireann**  
**Leinster House**  
**Dublin 2**

**15<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**PQ: 9949/25 To ask the Minister for Health if she will give due consideration to funding the lymphoedema and lipoedema model of care considering that international studies show that the cost to treat patients could be reduced by 87%, if comprehensive lymphedema services were introduced; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Burke,

I refer to your parliamentary question, which was passed to the HSE for response.

Following endorsement of the Lymphoedema /Lipoedema Model of Care (MOC) by the HSE in early 2019, approval was given by the HSE to move ahead with the planning for the MOC and initiate the implementation of the MOC through a Proof-of-Concept approach. This enabling approach has resulted in 3 Specialist Lymphoedema Clinics (SLC's) in the community and 2 early detection services in the acute hospitals currently. The Proof-of-Concept services are funded on a temporary year to year basis.

The Specialist Lymphoedema Clinic outcomes have demonstrated improved quality of life, improved access and high patient satisfaction. In the patients reviewed after the first 6 months of treatment there were 3 episodes of cellulitis compared to 49 in the previous year and 0 hospitalisations compared to 7 in the previous year. In addition, GP visits were reduced by 86% and Public Health Nurse visits were reduced by 70%, resulting in reduced demand on acute and community services. The early detection services have demonstrated a reduction in the incidence of lymphoedema in breast cancer patients from 25% to 2 % from the current data.

Permanent funding to enable the full roll out of the model of care in the order of €8M annually will be sought as part of the Estimates 2026 process.

I trust this is of assistance.

**Yours sincerely,**

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**Geraldine Crowley,**  
**Assistant National Director,**  
**Enhanced Community Care Programme &**  
**Primary Care Contracts**