



12th May 2025

Deputy Rose Conway Walsh
Leinster House
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Re: PQ 24026/25 To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the provision of treatment for chronic conditions in Mayo University Hospital and in primary care centres in Mayo; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Conway Walsh,

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the delivery of services for patients living with Chronic Disease in County Mayo.

Both Mayo University Hospital and the Integrated Care Hub for Chronic Disease are fully committed to implementing the National Framework for Integrated Prevention and Management of Chronic Disease for patients living with Heart Disease, Type 2 Diabetes, COPD and Asthma. Our efforts are focused on delivering high-quality episodic care with a strong emphasis on integration and community based support, keeping patients well and out of hospital with the provision of patient centred care as close to home as possible.

We have a range of targeted services are currently being provided across County Mayo to support the management and care of individuals living with Chronic Disease conditions.

Key Services Include:

Community Specialist Teams:

- Multi-disciplinary teams consisting of Consultants, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Physiotherapists, Dieticians, Podiatrists and Health Promotion Officer deliver outreach services across County Mayo.
- Cardiology Clinics: Achill, Ballina, Belmullet and Castlebar
- Respiratory Clinics: Achill, Ballina, Ballinrobe, Belmullet, Castlebar, Claremorris, Swinford and Westport
- Diabetes Clinics: Achill, Ballina, Belmullet, Castlebar, Claremorris, and Westport

Mayo University Hospital Specialist Clinics:

- As part of the Clinical Nurse Specialist's role there is a 20% component to the acute services with weekly clinics for Diabetes and Respiratory services implemented in Mayo University Hospital. The Cardiology team have assisted in a waiting list initiative, whereby patients on the acute cardiology waiting list were seen in outreach clinics run by the community cardiology team.
- Mayo University Hospital continue to enhance capacity to meet the increasing demand for chronic disease management, this includes expanded outpatient services and access to multi-disciplinary teams for co-ordinated care.

Patient Education and Self-Management Support:

- A variety of resources and group education sessions are available to empower patients in managing their own Chronic Disease condition.
- Pulmonary Rehabilitation Programmes are being delivered in Ballina, Belmullet, Castlebar and Swinford



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- Cardiology Rehabilitation Programmes are being delivered in Ballina and Castlebar
- DESMOND Education Programmes for patients living with Type 2 Diabetes is delivered in Ballina, Belmullet, Castlebar and Claremorris

Telehealth and Virtual Programmes:

DESMOND courses are offered virtually and Cardiology pilot programmes are underway, with Mayo next to lead out on virtual consultations and remote monitoring for patients with complex needs. In addition discussions are currently progressing with all key stakeholders to provide telehealth and remote monitoring to patients who reside on Clare and Inisturk Islands.

Support Organisation Collaboration:

We work closely with local and national support organisations to complement the ongoing work of our clinical teams. These partnerships help expand access to education, peer support and practical resources for people living with chronic illness.

ALONE, Living Well Programme, Mayo Sports Partnership – (Better Balance, Breathe Well, Activator Pole Walking, Part of the Physical Activity for Health Pilot Project), Social Prescribing - Flourish, COPD Ireland, CROI, Irish Heart Foundation and Diabetes Ireland.

We remain steadfast to working in an integrated way to benefit our patients by delivering services that promote independence, prevent hospital admissions and improve the quality of life and we are actively working to expand these services in alignment with national policy directives.

Kind Regards,

Mary Warde
Integrated Healthcare Manager, Mayo