



Príomhoifigeach Daoine

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí
Sláinte Ospidéal Dr. Steevens',
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Mr. Edward Timmins, TD

28 May 2025

PQ 26238/25 (Health) – To ask the Minister for Health the progress that has been made with the HSE in implementing a progressive career pathway for healthcare assistants; the reason the HSE does not support the participation of its healthcare assistants in the advanced healthcare assistant practitioner apprenticeship programme (which is a career pathway, given that 30 HSE staff applied for the programme in 2024); and if she will make a statement on the matter - Edward Timmins

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent Parliamentary Question which was sent to the HSE for response.

The HSE does not currently have a role/grade titled 'advanced healthcare assistant practitioner'.

As per current eligibility criteria the educational requirement for a Health Care Assistant is relevant health skills QQI level 5 qualification. The current Eligibility Criteria for HCA Grade Code 6075 is available here

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/jobs/eligibility-criteria/health-care-assistant.pdf>

Therefore, there is no plan present to adopt an apprenticeship program akin to the Advanced Health Care Assistant Practitioner Level 6. As per HSE eligibility criteria (as quoted below).

The HSE wish to affirm the existing career pathway for Health Care Assistants are available on the HSE website via

https://careerhub.hse.ie/pathways_hca/ &

<https://healthservice.hse.ie/about-us/onmsd/education-and-continuous-professional-development/cpd-for-nurses-and-midwives/onmsd-sponsorship-schemes/public-health-service-employees.html> and outlines both vertical and horizontal pathways including information pertaining to Nurse Sponsorship for health care support staff.

I trust this is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Mairéad Ryan
National HR