



***Hospital Manager's Office
Letterkenny University Hospital, Letterkenny,
Co. Donegal F92 AE81***

20th October 2025

Charles Ward
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ : 53618/25

To ask the Minister for Health the current up-to-date position regarding a centre of excellence for diabetes care at Letterkenny University Hospital; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Charles Ward

Dear Deputy

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.

A Health Planning Project has been commissioned to inform and progress the planning for a number of infrastructural developments at Letterkenny University Hospital (LUH). This work will support the Development Control Plan (DCP), which will be completed by year end. The DCP will guide the long-term capital development of LUH to meet future demand and support us in implementing our clinical strategy, including developments in diabetes care.

This represents a great opportunity for us to clarify our service ambitions and scale of service provision required in order to meet the demand that we see presenting today, and the demand that is forecast for future years. This is a critical input to the robustness of the future Capital Development of the Hospital (as described in the DCP) and will provide significant credibility and robustness to business case submissions from LUH & Donegal IHA to the HSE National Team and the Department of Health.

While the above provides the future plans for LUH, the following are the current update in relation to the diabetes service. LUH has approval for three Consultant Endocrinologist posts, one of which has a 0.5 WTE commitment to LUH and 0.5 WTE to Enhanced Community Care Chronic Disease management programme, as follows:



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- A Consultant Endocrinology 50%/50% Acute & Community is currently in post.
- A new Consultant Endocrinologist commenced in June 2025.
- The Public Appointments Service (PAS) interview is complete, a Consultant Endocrinologist has been offered the position and is currently in clearances with PAS.

There are currently two Podiatrists in post. Clinics are scheduled for Monday, Wednesday & Friday with inpatients reviewed on a Thursday. There is currently no waiting list.

The Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) post for Type 1 was approved and interviews were on the 29th September 2025.

Currently, one Adult Pump clinic is facilitated per month. In addition, there are Paediatric Injection Clinics and Pump Clinics held twice per month and an ANP clinic facilitated twice weekly.

This service is supported by Dietitians when available and a basic grade Podiatrist.

LUH is developing processes for paediatric services for pump starts in LUH. LUH received approval to commence insulin pump starts from 2nd September 2025 and will receive clinical governance from Sligo University Hospital (SUH), Consultant Paediatric Endocrinologist. The SUH Consultant Paediatric Endocrinologist attends LUH once a month to oversee a Paediatric Pump Clinic. Our first pump assessment was on 9th October. LUH has two families booked in for assessment, and hope to get these children started on Insulin Pump Therapy before Christmas.

LUH has increased the number of T1 & T2 clinics to 14 per week, this should also increase again once the new consultant commence their role. All current outstanding review appointments should be offered in 2025 and with the appointment of the third Consultant in LUH should be able to see all patients within the Recommended Clinical Timeframe in 2026.

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

Yours Sincerely,

Seán Murphy
Hospital Manager
Letterkenny General Hospital