

Agenda Regional Health Forum South Meeting

Date: Thursday 17th September 2020 Time: 2.00

Venue: Virtual Meeting

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 20th February 2020
2. Chairperson's Correspondence
3. Report of Committee meetings held on:
 - South West Committee Meeting held on 23rd July 2020 - Telecon
 - South East Committee Meeting held on 28th July 2020 in Kilkenny

The next Committee Meetings will take place on:

- South East Committee Meeting held on 20th of October 2020 in Kilkenny
- South West Committee Meeting held on 22nd of October 2020 in Tralee

4. Notices of Motion

- (a) "That the HSE would inform if the expertise to perform the sometimes vitally important acute intervention of a Thrombectomy is available to appropriate patients within the Stroke Unit in University Hospital Kerry."

Cllr. Michael Gleeson

- (b) "Patients in Dungarvan and its surrounding districts may be referred to hospitals in Waterford, Clonmel or Cork, and may come under the care of consultants and teams in one of several hospitals. This can present a difficulty for patients attending clinics at one hospital, who in an emergency are taken by ambulance to another hospital due to National Ambulance Service protocols. This can interrupt continuity of care and may often result in a patient being transferred from their emergency destination hospital to the hospital at which they have been receiving treatment.

What are the protocols with respect to identifying destination hospital for emergency ambulance calls?

Is the closest hospital with an emergency department indicated in all cases?

Can a patient or a patient's next-of-kin choose the destination hospital based on ongoing treatment at a particular hospital?

Is it possible for a GP or consultant to stipulate the preferred destination hospital for their patient in the event of an emergency?

Is there scope for flexibility and for informed decision making in the best interests of the patient, especially in situations where the difference in travel time between hospitals is a matter of minutes?

Cllr Conor D. McGuinness

- (c) "Can HSE give an update when the out of Hours South Doc Services are restored to Listowel as these Services to the Listowel area are urgently needed."

Cllr Mike Kennelly

- (d) "That the HSE clarify what plans are in place to manage COVID during the winter period regarding capacity and, more specifically, if COVID numbers increase, how will elective services be managed in conjunction with emergency demands with regard to OPD waiting lists which increased due to curtailment during lockdown."

Cllr. Mikey Sheehy

Please also see Question 5(f)

- (e) "That we ensure that an out of hours wound care/ wound dressing provision is in place in Iveragh as soon as possible."

Cllr Norma Moriarty

- (f) "Despite assurances given that all Covid-19 testing would be completed within 48 hours at our last South East Committee meeting in Kilkenny, St Carthage's Nursing home in Lismore Co. Waterford was left waiting for over 5 days for results. This caused added distress for the staff, residents and anxious relatives of the nursing home which required a lock-down situation to be re-imposed for this extended period. In this light, I request that the HSE present this meeting with the actual statistics for test completed within the targeted 48 hour over the last 2 months and the complete picture of time taken for all test results completed over this period."

Cllr Jody Power

- (g) "Can the HSE South please outline as to whether all Adult Disability Day Services in Cork have resumed as planned and as to what level of service they are currently providing in comparison to pre-Covid levels of support, and when it is expected that full service will resume."

Cllr Eileen Lynch

5. Questions

- (a) "As Arthritis in any of its various forms can be a very debilitating and expensive condition for individuals of any age category, to ask the HSE Forum South if an individual sufferer, is automatically entitled to a full Medical Card?"

Cllr. Michael Gleeson

- (b) "Can I please get an update on the HSE's Capital Plan to construct a new 60 bed Residential Centre (to replace the St. Anne's/St. Bernadette's/St. Benedict's wards) on a site adjacent to St. Patrick's Hospital in Cashel"

Cllr Declan Burgess

- (c) "Given the importance of a strong co-ordinated unified health service especially during the Covid 19 Pandemic, can the HSE outline what plans are in place with regard to the development of the Primary Care Units? Are they to be continued and if so how is their role to be defined?"

Cllr John Sheehan

- (d) "Many full-time and retained firefighters have undertaken first responder training. Will the HSE engage with local authority fire services with regard to the latter providing First Responder services in their locality? Could local authority fire services be covered under the National First Responder Network scheme for training, deployment and insurance purposes?"

Cllr Conor D. McGuinness

- (e) "When will the New Primary Care Centre in Listowel be officially opened to the Public and will all services be available."

Cllr Mike Kennelly

- (f) "Do the HSE have plans to utilise the private sector to alleviate OPD waiting lists which have increased due to COVID19?"

Cllr. Mikey Sheehy

Please also see Motion 4(d)

- (g) "Can we have an update on a reopening date for day services for the elderly at Cahersiveen Community Hospital and that the required staff be approved and sourced if necessary to provide this vital service."

Cllr Norma Moriarty

- (h) "Can the HSE advise as to when Breast Check Services will resume and as to whether extra tests and necessary resources will be made available to compensate for the fact that tests have been stopped since March."

Cllr Eileen Lynch

7. Date and Time of next meeting – 19th November 2020 at 2pm.