

CC/JC/MC

Email: pqmidwestacute@hse.ie

27th July 2022

Mr Jackie Cahill TD,
Dàil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 38801/22, PQ 38803/22, PQ 38804/22, PQ 38805/22, PQ 38806/22, PQ 39939/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients that were seen in the medical assessment unit of Nenagh General Hospital on a weekly basis from the beginning of March to the end of June 2022, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Jackie Cahill

To ask the Minister for Health if the Nenagh General Hospital medical assessment unit has had to close on any day in 2022 due to staff shortages; if so, the dates; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Jackie Cahill

To ask the Minister for Health if the Nenagh General Hospital medical assessment unit is still facing staff shortages; if so, the positions that are due to be filled; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Jackie Cahill

To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients that the Nenagh General Hospital medical assessment unit should be able to see on a weekly basis if it were operating at full capacity and not facing staff shortages; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Jackie Cahill

To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients that the Nenagh General Hospital medical assessment unit should be able to see on a daily basis if it were operating at full capacity and not facing staff shortages; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Jackie Cahill

To ask the Minister for Health if there are any job vacancies at present in the medical assessment unit at Nenagh Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Jackie Cahill

Dear Deputy Cahill

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have been in contact with the relevant staff and I have been informed that the MAU in Nenagh Hospital was closed for one day on the 30th June 2022 due to staff shortages. The decision to close the MAU in Nenagh Hospital on this day was taken in order to ensure patient safety.

The below table outlines the number of patients seen on a weekly basis from the beginning of March to the end of June 2022.

Month	Dates	No of patients seen in MAU	Total Per Month
March	01/03/22 to 04/03/22	27	
	07/03/22 to 11/03/22	40	
	14/03/22 to 18/03/22	28	
	21/03/22 to 25/03/22	41	
	28/03/22 31/03/22	40	176
April	01/04/2022	8	
	04/04/22 to 08/04/22	53	
	11/04/22 to 15/04/22	49	
	18/04/22 to 22/04/22	38	
	25/04/22 to 29/04/22	49	197
May	02/05/22 to 06/05/22	40	
	09/05/22 to 13/05/22	55	
	16/05/22 to 20/05/22	41	
	23/05/22 to 27/05/22	53	
	30/05/22 to 31/05/22	22	211
June	01/06/22 to 03/06/22	37	
	06/06/22 to 10/06/22	46	
	13/06/22 to 17/06/22	63	
	20/06/22 to 24/06/22	52	
	27/06/22 to 30/06/22	22	220

	Total number of patients seen		804
--	--------------------------------------	--	------------

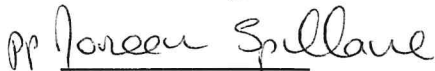
Staff vacancies in the MAU at present include one Registrar position and two GP posts. UL Hospitals Group has been engaging in recruitment campaigns in order to fill these posts.

The recruitment of additional staff to the Nenagh MAU would allow the MAU to see 120 new patients and 20 review patients per week between Monday and Friday.

The Medical Assessment Unit at Nenagh Hospital provides diagnosis and treatment for patients referred with medical conditions including chest infections, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), pneumonia, urinary tract infections, fainting episodes, clots in the leg, anaemia, or non-acute cardiac problems. Through additional staffing the MAU at Nenagh Hospital have expanded their services over the past two years, making more assessment slots available for GPs in the MidWest. Attendances at our Medical Assessment Units in Ennis and Nenagh grew by a combined 19% between 2019 and 2021. In the first five months of this year they have seen a further annual increase of 17% combined.

I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Prof Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group