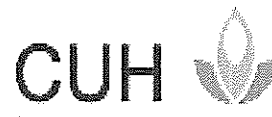




Eoidhneannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



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Date: 20th June 2022

PQ – 26911/22

Deputy Thomas Gould
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

“To ask the Minister for Health his plans to address overcrowding in emergency departments in Cork”

Dear Deputy Gould

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The following is included in the CUH Action Plan for the Emergency Department:

- Implement the CUH Escalation plan in full, which includes the cancellation of non-time critical surgeries.
- Winter Plan proposals/initiatives will assist with patient flow using the Five Fundamentals Framework.
- Review of greater than 7 day & 14 day patients ensuring the DTOC list is complete and accurate.
- The continued use of private hospitals capacity will continue. Discussion are ongoing with the Private Nursing Homes Association to establish if any transitional care beds can be made available.
- Continue focus on reviewing all patients for Rehabilitation to improve throughput.
- Reviewing all inpatient diagnostics on a daily basis to ensure no delays in flow and patient care pathway.

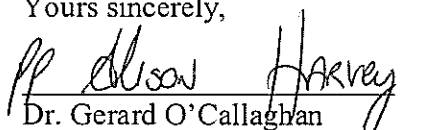
- Escalation meetings held daily, with all stakeholders in attendance.
- Additional ward rounds by Consultants.
- Requesting assistance from Cork/Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH) to assist with the DTOC's.
- An additional CT scanner has been approved for the ED.
- Expansion of hospital avoidance measures including the development of integrated COPD and Heart Failure services in the community.
- Work is ongoing with the National Ambulance Service (NAS) in relation to "See and Treat"
- Further plans approved to develop a Paediatric ED.
- CUH has intensified work with CKCH to improve patient flow in the ED. This includes the integrated unscheduled care site team and the regional unscheduled care team.
- Further engagement with the local private hospitals for additional bed capacity and support with diagnostic services.

Initiatives from the Community

- It has been agreed with CKCH that CUH will take over the governance of St. Finbarr's hospital Rehabilitation Unit and Farranlee Road Nursing Unit.
- CKCH have purchased a hotel in Blarney that will facilitate step down beds for CUH.
- Daily meetings/teleconferences are taking place between CKCH and the Unscheduled Care Manager for SSWHG.
- CKCH are developing Heather House on the St. Mary's Campus, which should provide long stay dementia, and step down beds for CUH.
- CKCH are planning to locate a team in CUH on a daily basis to assist with the patient egress process.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,


 Dr. Gerard O'Callaghan
 Interim Chief Executive Officer