Ospidéil OL UL Hospitals

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25th March 2024

Mr Martin Browne TD
Dàil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ 51415/24

To ask the Minister for Health if consideration will be given to opening medical assessment units at Nenagh, Ennis and St John's hospitals on a 24-hour basis in light of the continued high number of presentations at University Hospital Limerick; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Martin Browne

Dear Deputy Browne

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.

The expanded Medical Assessment Unit services across UL Hospitals Group are making a significant and positive impact on delivering timely care to thousands of patients referred by their GPs to hospital for urgent medical attention.

All three Mid-West MAUs are currently open from 8am-8pm. We are working with all stakeholders on planning for the continued expansion of our MAU services including a further extension of opening hours.

In 2023, 15,006 patients were referred to our Medical Assessment Units in Ennis, Nenagh and St John's, representing an 18% increase on 2022.

MAUs provide diagnosis and treatment for patients referred with a wide variety of medical conditions, including chest infections, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), pneumonia, urinary tract infections, fainting episodes, clots in the leg, and anaemia. Patients are reviewed by a senior clinician and may require x-rays, blood tests, scans or further diagnostic imaging.

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

Yours sincerely,

Professor Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group