

Cork University Hospitals Group
Wilton
Cork
T12 DC4A
Tel: 021 – 4922473

Date: 10th May 2024

PQ – 17153/24

Deputy Thomas Gould
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware that nurses are forced to triage patients in the ED waiting rooms due to overcrowding in CUH; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

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.

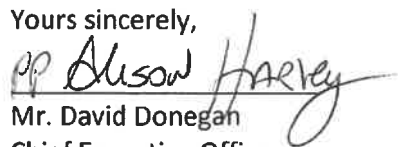
Nurses in the Emergency Department are not forced to triage patients in the waiting rooms. At times when a large number of patients arrive to the ED at the same time, our 3 triage rooms are in use and to maintain our triage time KPI at 15minutes from time of registration to triage (Key Performance Indicator as per the Emergency Medical Programme) we re-deploy additional resources to the triage rooms.

This additional nurse may go into the waiting room to scan the area. If there is a patient with an obvious limb injury, or the nurse may ask if there is anyone with a more minor injury, carry out a brief triage if the patient is happy for this and take the patient to an appropriate treatment area.

Likewise on scanning the waiting room the nurse will filter out any paediatric cases and take them to the Paediatric ED and triage then there thus helping to get the right patient to the right treatment area in a timely manner, and also decompressing the waiting room. The nurse may also by scanning the waiting room pick out the patient that looks unwell or agitated and filter them to a more appropriate area to triage them. All of the above can be carried out by any of our Triage competent nurses very discreetly and effectively until the surge has passed and the waiting room and waiting queue has been managed.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alison Haery". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr. David Donegan
Chief Executive Officer