

CC/VAW/MC

Email: pqmidwestacute@hse.ie

20th February 2024

Ms Violet-Anne Wynne TD
Dàil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ 5316/24

To ask the Minister for Health the steps he will take in 2024 to extend the opening hours of a unit (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Violet-Anne Wynne

Details supplied: Medical Assessment Unit at Ennis Hospital – extending the opening hours to 18 or 24 hours

Dear Deputy Wynne,

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.

Ennis MAU is open from 8am to 8pm and in 2016 was the first MAU in a model 2 hospital to operate seven days a week.

Our Medical Assessment Units at Ennis, Nenagh and St John's hospitals 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.

Funding of €5.2m approved by the HSE's National Acute Division in 2023 has allowed our MAUs at Nenagh and St John's to move to a seven-day service and also to underpin the expansion of MAU slots at Ennis.

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

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.

We currently have no plans to expand the operating hours of Ennis MAU beyond 8pm.



Working together, caring for you

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

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Sonya Cotter
Acting Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group

