

CC/VAW/MC

Email: pqmidwestacute@hse.ie

20th May 2024

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

PQ 3639/24

To ask the Minister for Health if he will comment on the lack of step-down beds throughout the UL Hospitals Group; what measures he will implement to increase set-down capacity across the group; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Violet-Anne Wynne

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.

University Hospital Limerick has access to inpatient beds in our Model 2 hospitals at Nenagh, Ennis and St John's, in addition to rehab and residential care beds in the community. We work closely with our community colleagues to ensure timely patient access to rehab facilities in community nursing units, and to ensure these beds are optimised at all times.

At present, we also access beds in private nursing homes, which provides a level of health and social care therapies and a transition period before discharging patients either to their homes or long-term residential care.

Plans are also being progressed to utilise the new 50-bed community nursing unit facility in Nenagh as an interim step-down sub-acute facility run by a private provider, pending scheduled completion in early 2025 of the first of two new 96-bed blocks at UHL.

Also being progressed is a plan to appoint an external service provider to provide and manage a Community Rehabilitation Unit in County Clare, supporting up to 20 beds.

Both measures will provide further options to stream patients who require rehab and stepdown care, thus creating further capacity in the acute hospitals in the Mid-West.

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

Yours sincerely,



Ms Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group