



Oifig um Cheannasaí Seirbhíse do Chúram Priomhúil  
Cúram Sláinte Phobail FSS an Mheán Iarthair  
Ascaill Bhaile Choimín,  
Páirc Gnó an Ráithín,  
Ráithín, Luimneach V94 D1W9  
Teil: 061 483226

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9<sup>th</sup> August 2024

**Deputy Cathal Crowe**  
4 Francis St., Ennis  
Co. Clare

**Re: PQ 32519/24 - "To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients and hours provided, for each of the services offered at the HSE Health Centre in Shannon, Co. Clare; and if he will make a statement on the matter."**

Dear Deputy Crowe,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

In my response to PQ 28273/24, I provided a list of the HSE Primary Care Services and other services provided from Shannon Health Centre. Shannon Health Centre is the base for a number of teams (e.g. Dental, Public Health Nursing etc.) who provide Primary Care services to the population of Shannon and surrounding areas including Newmarket on Fergus, Drumline, Clenagh, Urlan, and Tomfinlough. Some patients from Sixmilebridge and the surrounding areas are seen at Shannon Health Centre for Primary Care Services (e.g. Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Speech & Language Therapy and Dietetics).

You have requested information regarding the level of activity at Shannon Health Centre. The Community Healthcare Network (CHN) Manager for East Clare has provided the following breakdown in respect of the core HSE Primary Care Services provided from the Health Centre. The table below gives a breakdown of the number of patients seen for assessment and/or intervention by service between January to June 2024. I can advise that any variance in activity across the services listed below in the months January to June is informed by multiple factors including the following: actual working WTE; scheduled clinics for the Health Centre and also the dynamic nature of service demand profiles.

Service	No. of patients sent (Adults & Paediatrics)						Total no. of patients seen by the service in the six month period
	January	February	March	April	May	June	
Speech & Language Therapy	116	128	134	105	175	68	726
Physiotherapy	116	78	97	172	129	100	692
Occupational Therapy	122	116	84	130	82	63	597
Podiatry (Adults only)	72	22	61	44	44	38	281

I can advise that it is not possible to provide cumulative data in respect of the number of hours spent by each clinician/service dealing with patients. This information is not recorded by the clinicians when managing their respective caseloads.

The Public Health Nursing (PHN) Dept. records activity levels for the East Clare Network which includes the patients serviced by the Shannon Health Centre. The Director of Public Health Nursing (DPHN) advised that activity levels for the Network area shows significant patient interventions across the entire Network. The DPHN has provided the following activity report for the East Clare Network for the months January to June 2024 incl.:

<b>Activity report for East Clare Network (CHN3) January to June 2024</b>	
<b>No. of new referrals accepted by the PHN service:</b>	787
<b>No. of patients seen (existing and new referrals)</b>	2371
<b>No. of discharges</b>	887
<b>Indirect interventions e.g. patient referred onwards</b>	3686
<b>No. of patients on active caseload</b>	8788
<b>No. of Primary Visits for Newborn babies</b>	201

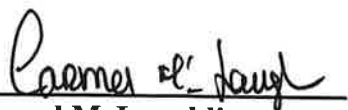
As advised in my previous response, the PHN Service provides a full range of community nursing services to patients in both clinical (Health Centre) and domiciliary settings. The services provided include wound care, leg ulcer clinics/care, lactation service, Child Health (Developmental checks), Immunisations etc. The PHNs carry out assessments and follow ups for patients in Health Centres and in patients' home as required. The PHN will attend the home of a newborn baby to carry out the Primary Visit on their discharge from hospital.

The Principal Dental Surgeon has confirmed that the HSE Dental Clinic at Shannon Health Centre is operational between the hours of 09:00 – 13:00 & 13:30 – 16:30 each day Monday to Thursday. The HSE Dental Service based at Shannon Health Centre is responsible for the provision of dental care/treatment for a population of approx. 5,040 children (under 16) living in Shannon and the surrounding areas. School going children in the target classes (2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>) in each school year are seen at the Health Centre for their school dental examination, dental care/treatment and follow up as required. The number of children seen from the target classes at the Health Centre is approx. 630 children each year.

The HSE Dental Service also provides an emergency/casualty service for children (under 16). The child will be seen for an emergency appointment at the health centre where treatment for the presenting pain/sepsis will be provided. The Principal Dental Surgeon advised that on average three emergency/casualty appointments are facilitated each day in conjunction with the scheduled dental clinics at Shannon Health Centre.

I trust this information addresses the issues raised in your representation.

**Yours sincerely,**



**Carmel McLaughlin**  
**General Manager**  
**Primary Care**