



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta  
um Rochtain agus Imeascadh

4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas, An  
Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile Átha  
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Deputy Darren O'Rourke  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

4<sup>th</sup> July 2024

***PQ 26465/24 - To ask the Minister for Health the locations outside Dublin where emergency out-of-hours eye walk-in clinics are based; and if there are plans to increase this number. -Darren O'Rourke***

Dear Deputy O'Rourke,

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.

Access and Integration sought responses from each of the Health Regions for your question.

Please see the responses received below.

### **HSE Dublin and North East:**

#### Hospital Response

All Emergency Departments and Minor Injury Units provide eye injury care.

Emergency Departments are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a week and are located in Cavan General Hospital, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda and Our Lady's Hospital Navan. The Minor Injury Units are located in Monaghan Hospital (8am to 8pm, 7 days a week) and Louth Hospital (9am to 8pm, 7 days a week).

Furthermore there are referral pathways to advanced ophthalmology services when necessary.

#### Community Response

##### CHO 8:

There are no out-of-hours emergency eye services within Louth and Meath Primary Care

##### CHO 1:

Cavan and Monaghan patients can access eye emergency services at the Mater Hospital in respect of adults, and the Temple Street Children hospital in respect of children. Following an initial assessment, service users are referred to Ophthalmology Services, for further treatment, if necessary.

Community Healthcare Cavan Donegal Leitrim Sligo Monaghan are unable to comment as to what plans there are to increase the number of out of hours eye walk in clinics as these clinics fall outside of its remit.



## **HSE Dublin and Midlands**

### **Dublin Midlands Hospital Group Response:**

There is no emergency out-of-hours eye walk-in clinic service in the Midland Regional Hospital Portlaoise, Midland Regional Hospital Mullingar, Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore or Naas General Hospital.

## **HSE Dublin and South East:**

### **Ireland East Hospital Group Response:**

Our regional emergency out-of-hours eye walk-in clinic, outside of Dublin, is in University Hospital Waterford (UHW). Eye Casualty at UHW is staffed from 8am-8pm Monday to Sunday. There is an On-call Medical Team x 24 hours Monday to Sunday. Patients are referred by GPs, Optometrists or self-referral. There is an appointment system in place since the COVID-19 pandemic, which is managed by both medical and nursing staff within the Eye Casualty. On call Doctors are often contacted with consults from Wexford General Hospital, Tipperary University Hospital and St Luke's Kilkenny.

### **Community Healthcare East CHO 6 Response:**

CH06 Primary Care Services currently provides a non - emergency appointment based eye care service for the CHO6 Population including east Wicklow. There is currently no emergency out-of-hours eye walk-in clinics in CHO 6.

In an emergency a patient should contact their GP or Optician, who can make a referral to the Royal Victoria Eye & Ear Emergency Department. The patient will be triaged over the phone by a member of the medical team and an appointment may be made depending on the urgency. Ophthalmic telephone triage is provided from 8am-5pm Monday – Friday and 9am-5pm Saturday - Sunday.

For eye emergencies outside of these hours they must contact a GP out-of-hours service Edoc in North Wicklow or Caredoc in South Wicklow.

## **HSE South West:**

### **Cork University Hospital Response:**

There are no out of-hours eye walk-in-clinics in Cork University Hospital (CUH). Scheduled clinics take place during core hours in CUH Eye Clinic Monday – Friday. Out of hours presentations to the service are via Emergency Department / Eye Casualty.

### **South Infirmary-Victoria University Hospital**

The South Infirmary-Victoria University Hospital (SIVUH) does not currently have an Ophthalmology out-of-hours walk-in clinic. However, the Ophthalmology Services from CUH will be transferring to SIVUH on 1st July and SIVUH have confirmed that the Ophthalmology casualty will be based on a triage and appointment system; should someone walk-in they will be assessed, advised, and triaged and appointed if appropriate.



### **HSE Mid West**

#### **University of Limerick Hospital Group Response:**

There is no emergency out-of-hours walk-in ophthalmology clinic based in the Mid-West.

Patients attending the Emergency Department at University Hospital Limerick with an ophthalmology complaint are directly referred from triage to the ophthalmology service for review and treatment.

### **HSE West and North West**

#### **Saolta Hospital Group Response:**

There is an Ophthalmology Emergency on-call service provided through the Emergency Department in Galway University Hospitals.

In Sligo University Hospital and Letterkenny University Hospital, walk-in out-of-hours emergency care is provided by the Emergency Department with referral to the Ophthalmic service, as necessary.

I trust this is of assistance to you,

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Smyth', written in a cursive style.

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**Emma Smyth**  
**Head of Service**  
**Access and Integration (Acute Services)**