

CC/AK/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

05th April 2024

Mr Alan Kelly TD
Dàil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ 12368/24

To ask the Minister for Health when the GP streaming service for UHL Hospital that was announced by the CEO of the HSE recently will commence operating; the way in which it will work; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Alan Kelly

Dear Deputy Kelly,

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.

GP Streaming at the Front Door is due to commence at University Hospital Limerick on the week commencing 08th April 2024.

This initiative will focus on patients attending the ED who have not seen their GP, have not been brought in by ambulance or do not have any signs of traumatic injury.


People can attend our ED in a number of ways – by ambulance, through GP referral or self-referral. Approximately 50% of patients attending the ED in UHL do so without a GP referral, a higher proportion than any other ED in the country.

Under the new pathway, patients will be invited to see a GP in the first instance, potentially avoiding an ED attendance while other options are available. This may include patients being streamed to our MAU services at St John's, Ennis and Nenagh hospitals.

A primary care triage nurse will be based in triage in the ED and an out-of-hours GP will be based adjacent to the ED. The hours of service will be 12noon – 10pm, seven days a week. As with other GP services, fees may apply for patients on the new care pathway.

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

Yours sincerely,



Professor Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group