



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,  
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7<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Deputy Tully,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 22226/24 - To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if community nurses are available to cover care that may fall outside of regular business hours to enable a disabled person to live independently.**

**-Pauline Tully**

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Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 22226/24) which you submitted to the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth for a response.

The HSE provides a range of assisted living services including Personal Assistant and Home Support Services to Individuals with disabilities, to support them to maximise their capacity to live full and independent lives. These services are provided either directly by the HSE or through a range of voluntary service providers. Resource allocation is determined by the needs of the individual, compliance with prioritisation criteria, and the level of resources available. In this context, services are discretionary and the number of hours granted is determined in consideration of other support services already provided to the person/family.

In relation to nursing supports available referrals to the Public Health Nursing service are triaged and prioritised in line with the management of referrals accepted to the PHN caseload guideline. Following acceptance of the referral, the PHN service undertakes a nursing assessment which determines the nursing care needs of the individual. PHN nursing supports are generally available during the core working day.

The Community Intervention Team (CIT) is a specialist nursing & health professional team who offer an extended service, usually from 8am to 9pm, seven days per week to facilitate a patient's care in the community, home or nursing home (public & private) settings. The CIT service provides full national coverage across the 9 CHOs and offers an agile, enhanced and responsive community based service to prevent unnecessary hospital admission or attendance, and to facilitate/enable early discharge of patients from the acute setting that are appropriate for CIT care.

Paediatric homecare packages (PHCP) are intensive nursing home supports put in place to enable families to care for children with complex healthcare needs (CCHN) at home. This service is provided by HSE Primary Care when a child has complex healthcare and/or nursing needs that cannot be met by existing Primary Care and social care services. The service, which is demand led, is funded by HSE Primary Care and is delivered via



service arrangements by preferred private healthcare providers. These services are based on need and are delivered on a 24 hour/7 days per week basis. PHCPs are child and family-centred and individualised to the child's needs.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seán McArt', written over a horizontal line.

**Seán McArt**

General Manager Primary Care  
National Community Operations