



**CÚRAM SLÁINTE POBAIL  
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE**

CABHÁN DÚN NA NGALL LIATROIM MUINEACHÁN SLIGEACH  
CAVAN DONEGAL LEITRIM MONAGHAN SLIGO

**Ceann Seirbhíse, Cúraim Príomhúil**  
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Cabhán Dún na nGall  
Liatroim Muineachán, Sligeach  
An Clochar, Sráid an Choláiste, Béal Átha  
Seanaidh, Co Dhun na nGall, F94 TPX4

**Head of Service, Primary Care**  
Community Healthcare Cavan Donegal  
Leitrim Monaghan Sligo  
HSE, An Clochar, College Street,  
Ballyshannon, Co Donegal, F94 TPX4

[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie) @hselive

t: 071 9834627 | 071 9834637

e: HOSPC.CHO1@hse.ie

10<sup>th</sup> October, 2024

Deputy Pearse Doherty  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

***PQ ref 39395/24 - "To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans to provide a dedicated stoma nurse for primary, community and continuing care services in County Donegal; and if he will make a statement on the matter."***

Dear Deputy Doherty

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.

I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position for Community Healthcare Donegal.

There are no plans to have a dedicated community stoma nurse in Co. Donegal as patients are taught to be self-caring by Letterkenny University Hospital (LUH) or by the Community Intervention Team (CIT). Any issues regarding complex stomas are referred to the specialist stoma services provided by the Stoma Nurse and/or the Consultant at LUH.

Prior to discharge from LUH, the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) stoma nurse will provide support, information and education to the patient and family. The patient will be given a two-week supply of products, including stoma bags that are cut to size, to take home with them, and a prescription for required products. An outpatient appointment is arranged for the patient for 3 – 4 weeks post discharge.

On discharge from hospital, all new patients with newly-formed stomas are referred to the CIT for aftercare for a period of up to two weeks. During this time, the patient will receive home visits from an experienced nurse on the team who will provide education and support to the patient and family.

The CIT nurse will assess the need for support on their first visit to the patient, and following a thorough assessment, will plan a tailored aftercare programme for the patient. The programme of care is person-centered and offers an individualised plan to support each patient.

The aim is to ensure that the patient and/or family member is both competent and confident with managing the stoma before the patient is discharged from the CIT service. If further support is required, the CIT will refer the patient to the Public Health Nursing service to continue with additional support.

A further follow-up appointment is made with the LUH stoma nurse for 3 - 6 months post discharge, or sooner if there are problems. If no complications have arisen, the patient is discharged from the LUH service after one year.



I trust that this is of assistance, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aisling O'Neill". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Aisling O'Neill**  
**Acting Head of Service**  
**Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Cúram Príomhúil**  
**Cúram Sláinte Pobail Cabhán Dún na nGall Liatroim Muineachán Sligeach**

**Head of Service, Primary Care**  
**Community Healthcare Cavan Donegal Leitrim Monaghan Sligo**