



Stiúrthóir Rochtana  
Oifig an Stiúthóra Náisiúnta um Rochtain  
agus Imeascadh

Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas,  
An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile  
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Deputy Matt Shanahan

27<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2.

**PQ40797/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health to provide a report on the availability and specialist use of dermoscopy across the model 4 hospital network; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ40799/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health the training procedures that are in place for the use of dermoscopy as a clinical diagnostic within the model four hospital network; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Shanahan,

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.

**Response:**

In relation to your request above, the HSE does not hold this information centrally, in this instance the queries were sent out to the Regional Health Areas for a response which took some time to compile. Apologies for the delay in responding.

The information you have requested is provided in Table 1 and Table 2 below.



Table 1. Responses to PQ PQ40797/24

<b>Hospital Name</b>	<b>The availability and specialist use of dermoscopy across the model 4 hospital network Yes / No</b>
St. James's Hospital	Yes
Tallaght University Hospital	Yes
Beaumont Hospital	Yes
Mater Misericordiae University Hospital	Yes, it is available in the dermatology department, dermoscopy is a standard of care tool within dermatology for the assessment of pigmented lesion, skin cancers and some inflammatory dermatoses
St. Vincent's University Hospital	Yes Noting - Dermoscopy is an essential component of clinical dermatology, particularly skin cancer assessment and management
University Hospital Waterford	UHW have acquired several of these devices for the department through research funds. The devices are used in all our clinics as a diagnostic tool, but the PLC service (Pigmented Lesion Clinic) in particular is dependent upon them.
University Hospital Limerick	Yes
Cork University Hospital	Yes Noting - Dermoscopy is a routine part of dermatology practice in the region & training is provided as a part of this. The Dermoscopy service offered by Prof Redmond as part of the Melanoma service in CUH.
Galway University Hospital	Yes. Dermoscopy is used in all Dermatology clinics held in the West and North West region.



Table 2. Responses to PQ PQ40799/24

Hospital Name	<b>The training procedures that are in place for the use of dermoscopy as a clinical diagnostic within the model four hospital network</b>
St. James's Hospital	<p>Training is provided during specialist training (SpR) via range of courses, (national specialty trainer would be able to give examples) and training is ongoing throughout career.</p> <p>Training is provided for registrars and nurses at all patient interfaces; clinics, surgery, consults etc.</p> <p>After the basic theoretical courses, training is ongoing at “bedside” and then ever evolving with exposure and experience.</p>
Tallaght University Hospital	Training is provided on a daily basis in clinic to medical and nursing colleagues
Beaumont Hospital	Dermoscopy is clinician based, supervised and training provided by the Consultant team
Mater Misericordiae University Hospital	Dermoscopy training is provided by consultant dermatologist to NCHDs (interns, SHO's, Regs and SpRs ) rotating through the department.
St. Vincent's University Hospital	Individual clinicians who practice dermoscopy are responsible for maintaining competence in dermoscopy and attending CPD as needed
University Hospital Waterford	The consultants have done courses on dermoscopy. UHW also have dermoscopy textbooks available within the department. The NCHD's have access to these tools in all clinics. We review the dermoscopy images with the NCHD's and teach clinically on a daily basis.
University Hospital Limerick	<p>All consultant dermatologists and NCHDs are trained in clinical dermoscopy. Dermoscopy is in daily use as a clinical diagnostic tool. As such, all consultants are skilled in the technique. In addition, we have two Candidate Advanced Nurse Practitioners who have completed the MSc in Clinical Dermatology in the University of Hertfordshire. This includes Dermoscopy and Skin Lesion Recognition modules.</p> <p>In addition, bi-monthly consultant led Dermoscopy teaching sessions take place within the dermatology department</p>



Cork University Hospital	<p>PRIMARY CARE DERMATOLOGY SOCIETY UK Dermoscopy Courses for Beginners, Dermoscopy Course for Intermediate Users Dermoscopy Course for Advanced Users</p> <p>FOTOFINDER ACADEMY UK Advanced Dermoscopy Workshops Advanced Dermoscopy Course</p> <p>Note: Dermoscopy is a routine part of dermatology practice in the region &amp; training is provided as a part of this. The Dermoscopy service offered by Prof Redmond as part of the Melanoma service in CUH.</p>
Galway University Hospital	<p>Dermoscopy training is provided to all doctors and nursing staff working in dermatology clinics in the West and North West region. In addition, multiple online Dermoscopy training courses are available.</p>

I trust that this addresses your query.

Yours sincerely,

**Trish King,**  
**Access & Integration**