



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta
Clár Cúraim Pobail Feabhsaithe &
Conarthaí Príomhchúraim
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
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Deputy O'Rourke
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

25th February 2025

PQ: 46268/24 to ask the Minister for Health if funding has been allocated to the Lymphoedema model of care to date; if so, the amount of funding that has been allocated, and in what years; and if he will make a statement on the matter

PQ: 46269/24 to ask the Minister for Health if there are plans to expand services for Lymphoedema patients; to provide details of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 46270/24 to ask the Minister for Health regarding Lymphoedema, if compression pumps are funded by the HSE; if not, if there are plans to fund them; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 46271/24 to ask the Minister for Health regarding Lymphoedema, if compression socks are funded by the HSE; if not, if there are plans to fund them; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Rourke,

I refer to your parliamentary question, which was passed to the HSE for response.

Funding allocated to the Lymphoedema model of care to date: There are 3 proof of concept specialist lymphoedema clinics in primary care and 3 lymphoedema early detection services in acute oncology services. Funding is on a temporary year to year basis and is detailed in the table below.

	Proof of concept services	Education/equipment
2022	€904,740	€65,000
2023	€904,740	€120,000
2024	€904,740	€10,000

Funding to enable permanency of the current proof of concept services and full roll out of the model of care to the order of €8M annually will be sought as part of the Estimates 2026 process.

Plans to expand services for Lymphoedema patients: Following endorsement of the Lymphoedema /Lipoedema Model of Care (MOC) by the HSE in early 2019, approval was given by the HSE to move ahead with the planning for the MOC and initiate the implementation of the MOC through a Proof of Concept approach. This enabling approach has resulted in 3 Specialist Lymphoedema Clinics (SLC's) in the community and 3 early detection services in the acute hospitals currently. The Proof of Concept services are funded on a temporary year to year basis.

The Specialist Lymphoedema Clinic outcomes have demonstrated improved quality of life, improved access and high patient satisfaction. In the patients reviewed after the first 6 months of treatment there were 3 episodes of cellulitis compared to 49 in the previous year and 0 hospitalisations compared to 7 in the previous year. In addition, GP visits were reduced by 86% and Public Health Nurse Visits were



reduced by 70%, resulting in reduced demand on acute and community services.

Permanent funding to enable the full roll out of the model of care in the order of €8M annually will be sought as part of the Estimates 2026 process.

Compression pumps funding: While the HSE offers a wide range of services and products for service users with lymphoedema, it does not fund the use of compression pumps in the community.

Compression socks funding: When clinically indicated following an assessment by an appropriate healthcare professional, the HSE funds the provision of compression garments for lymphoedema, for eligible service users.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Crowley', written over a light blue rectangular background.

**Geraldine Crowley,
Assistant National Director,
Enhanced Community Care Programme &
Primary Care Contracts**