

9th November 2015

Deputy Timmy Dooley
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 38451/15

“To ask the Minister for Health when a strategy document by a Paediatric Diabetes Working Group under the National Clinical Programme outlining a model of care based on regional centres of excellence and local outreach clinics with adequate resources will be launched; the reason the launch date was changed from 21 October 2015 and later from 4 November 2015; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Dooley,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to 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.

As background information, the Paediatric Diabetes Working Group was formed in 2011 with an initial remit to develop a national model of care for the provision of insulin pump therapy to children under 5 years of age with type 1 diabetes. The Working Group published this document in July 2012. This document was well received by all and implementation commenced almost immediately with the identification of referral pathways for all appropriate children under five years to be offered insulin pump therapy.

A procurement process was then put in place in the HSE in collaboration with the paediatric diabetes programme, aimed at bulk purchase of pumps. This pump procurement initiative has been a highly successful process, involving a multidisciplinary team including HSE procurement, medical and nursing teams within the HSE along with patient input from Diabetes Ireland.

Savings made through the procurement purchase allowed funding to be allocated for additional staff and since 2012, 7.15 WTE healthcare professionals have been recruited to provide insulin pump therapy. A further 2.5 WTEs are in the process of being recruited.

The working group commenced with the development of a national model of care for all children with Type 1 diabetes in 2014.

As you can appreciate any model of care or other documents which come from the national clinical programmes must go through a process of public consultation, clinical advisory group sign off and the HSE senior management sign off prior to launch and implementation. The paediatric diabetes programme is aware of this process and submitted the document to this office on Friday 25th September as part of the sign off process. This was considered at the CSPD senior management team meeting and has been put forward for noting at the next HSE leadership team meeting on 10th November.

In the meantime, this office is already working closely with the programme, engaging HSE communications and the Department of Health to work towards a Ministerial launch date of Monday 14th of December 2015, based on the Minister for Health's availability.

The initial dates of 21st October and 4th November were not given by or communicated to anyone through this office and were not HSE given dates.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Ms Michele Tait
General Manager