



Minister for Health visits Vaccination Sites

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly TD recently visited Vaccination centres in Kilbride, Ballybrit, Mayo and Carrick on Shannon to thank staff for the wonderful and hard work they have been doing and continue to do.

Over 500,000 vaccines have been delivered across all our centres which is a fantastic achievement and a tribute to the incredible team of staff working at each of the six vaccination centres and a number of satellite centres in the region.



Jean Kelly Operational Site Manager Ballybrit Vaccination Centre; Ann Cosgrove, Chief Operations Officer and Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly.



Saolta Tweets



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@saoltagroup

Chief Executive Officer

Saolta Group

Dear colleagues

As the country prepares to get back to normal it is timely to reflect on the past few months. We have had a difficult summer dealing with the ongoing impact of the cyber attack, as well as COVID-19, and increased attendances at our Emergency Departments. All of our hospitals have been very busy and are facing very significant challenges coming into the winter period.

We are nearing the end of Phase I of the COVID Vaccination Programme. To date across the Saolta Group, we have administered over 540,000 vaccines between the acute hospitals and at the vaccination clinics. This programme has been delivered through a collaborative effort with CHO1, Community Healthcare West, the Departments of Public Health in the North West and West and the National Ambulance Service. This is already having a positive impact on how we live our lives and on our hospitals. We can see this in the reduced number of COVID-19 positive inpatients in our hospitals in this fourth wave versus the peak of the third wave in January.

We have commenced Phase II of the Vaccination Programme. This will initially involve administering booster vaccines to those aged over 80 years and residents in nursing homes aged over 65 years. The vaccination centres across the Group will remain open and staff will be retained to support this.

The Flu Vaccine Campaign for the winter period 2021/2022 commenced this week. I would encourage all staff to get the flu vaccine, to protect not only themselves, but their patients, families and colleagues. Last year 55% of our staff availed of the flu vaccine, up 10% from the previous year. We are hoping to increase this number again this year.

Over the last few months, because of family circumstances, I had the opportunity to see the work of our staff at close quarters. The experience has more than reaffirmed my view of the professionalism and compassion of the staff working in our services, at all levels. When I see the sustained and very high levels of attendance at our Emergency Departments since May and the consequent rise in the numbers of patients awaiting admission on trolleys, coupled with the ongoing pressures associated with COVID-19, I can only thank you again sincerely for your efforts to provide the best care you can for every patient despite the many challenges.

Thank you.

Tony Canavan
Chief Executive Officer



Tony Canavan, CEO

Chief Operations Officer

Saolta Group

Dear colleagues

I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for all your incredible work throughout yet another difficult period. Despite ongoing challenges, you have shown resilience and deep commitment to your roles, ensuring that patient care remains the top priority across all our sites. Our hospitals could not function without the incredible work you carry out each day, caring for patients and keeping services going in trying circumstances, managing with COVID-19, the after-effects of the cyber attack and increased attendances at our Emergency Departments. These pressures have been exacerbated in places by unwarranted and unacceptable targeting of our staff online and in person. This is something we take extremely seriously and I want to assure you that we are taking every action open to us to address these issues.

A number of our hospitals have experienced sustained high levels of ED attendances over the past two months which has proved very challenging. We will continue initiatives funded in the 2020/21 Winter Plan and seek to introduce additional initiatives to support unscheduled care. We are also exploring access to any additional private hospital capacity within our region to support acute hospital activity.

We will also focus on scheduled care for the remainder of the year - given the impacts of COVID-19 and the cyber attack on elective procedures and OPD - and on trying to give as much access as practicable to patients across our hospitals. This will include outsourcing some elective procedures and OPD full packages of care, along with some additional weekend working, for example in Endoscopy.

We have progressed our healthcare-associated infection (HCAI) programme over the past year supported by the National AMRIC Programme with the approval of additional consultant microbiologist posts and specialist nursing posts; investment in an ICNet IT system to support the IPC service; and also allocation of funding for minor capital works across all the sites to address infrastructure issues including hygiene facilities on wards and also hygiene training and audit tools.

The cyber attack interrupted a number of ICT implementation projects, including IPMS, ICNet and NCIS. We now plan to implement IPMS in PUH at the end of November. ICNet will progress over the coming months as will NCIS in MUH. We will also recruit key posts to progress the ICM Order Communications system and ICU system implementation in 2022.

We continued our programme of key equipment replacement this year, including diagnostic equipment such as CT, MRI, endoscopy rooms (which are complete or in progress), and a range of other smaller equipment replacements. There are capital infrastructure projects in progress including projects for additional bed capacity in PUH and SUH; ED developments in UHG, SUH and MUH; Radiation Oncology development in GUH; hospice beds in Roscommon as well as planning for a range of projects across the sites to support cancer and acute hospital service provision.

Thank you all for your continued work.

Ann Cosgrove
Chief Operations Officer



Ann Cosgrove, COO

Staff Flu Vaccine Clinics

**Book an appointment to get your flu vaccine
TODAY**

Select a clinic time at your hospital by clicking here:

<https://www.swiftqueue.com/hse-staff-flu.php>

- Flu is a serious illness. Up to 500 people die from flu each year in Ireland.
- The flu vaccine cannot give you the flu.
- You need to get the flu vaccine EVERY year. The circulating influenza viruses change each year, so each year the composition of the flu vaccine changes to protect against the new strains of flu virus expected. This is why you need to have the flu vaccine every year
- Getting the flu vaccine is the best way to protect yourself, your family and patients from getting the flu.
- The flu vaccine is very safe. It has been given for more than 60 years to millions of people worldwide.
- Important to note that even though you may already have had a COVID-19 vaccine, it will not stop you getting the flu.



Protect yourself.
Protect others.

Visit **[HSE.ie/flu](https://www.hse.ie/flu)** for more information

Vaccination Programme - our journey to date

As the national vaccination programme reaches the natural conclusion of Phase 1, it is a good time to reflect on what has been achieved and the historic role Saolta teams have played in helping everyone in the region move on from the pandemic.

The Saolta Hospital Group has had the oversight and management of the vaccination programme in partnership with our colleagues in both Community Healthcare West and CHO1. As Chief Nurse for the Saolta Group, I was asked to lead on the programme. I had a dedicated core central Vaccination Programme Team, consisting of members drawn from key roles, and varying professions, across the Saolta Group, each bring their expertise and skill to the programme.

Our journey started back in December 2020, was initially delivered under the guidance of DONs and colleagues in each hospital, transitioning to six fixed and four 'temporary satellite' vaccination centres across the region during February and March under the stewardship of five Operational Site Managers and their teams. During August, vaccination centres hit the milestone of delivering 500,000 vaccines since the first centre opened at the end of February 2021.

The vaccination centres have been resourced by various staff, across a range of roles, including: vaccinators, pharmacists, site managers, registration and administration staff and student nurses. They have been supplemented by many support staff including security, cleaners and wellness checkers. The programme is also indebted to the members of the Defence Forces who have provided invaluable and immeasurable support to the vaccination programme, along with the many volunteers from the Civil Defence, Order of Malta, St John Ambulance and the Irish Red Cross.

National media has reported how impressive the take-up has been across the country and many of the counties in our region are amongst the highest rates in the country. However, the programme is not resting on its laurels – there is much work left to do, including: transitioning into Phase 2, which sees us continue to 'mop-up' vaccinations for those aged 12+; lead on the rollout of the Flu Vaccination Programme for Saolta HCWs; lead on third-dose vaccinations for some referred immunocompromised patients; and, support booster vaccinations for >65s in residential care facilities.

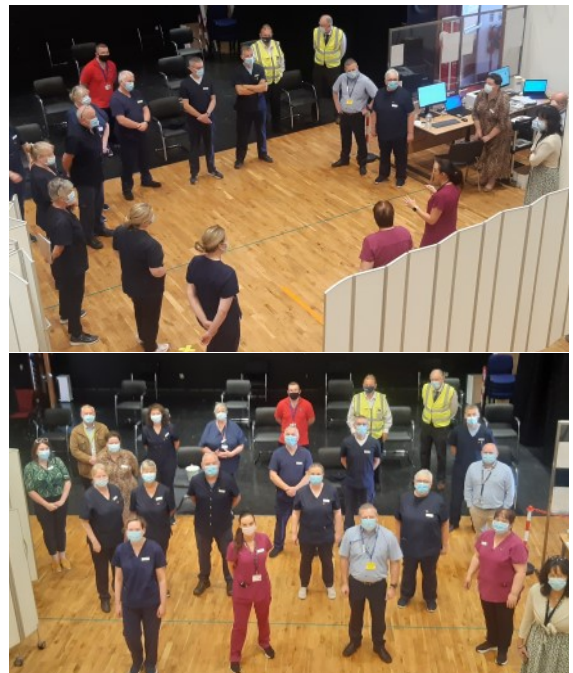
On top of this, the team are also overseeing the transition of vaccination centres in Donegal and Sligo to new sites in October. The longer-term work of the programme is being shaped by national colleagues and the programme team remains ready to react and implement changes as direction is received. Well done to all involved, it really is a fantastic achievement.

However, as we move into the next phase of the vaccination programme, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has worked so hard to make this programme one of the most successful in the world. Many of you gave up days off and holidays and worked many extra hours beyond your normal working day to get our staff vaccinated in the early days. Equally many of you worked tirelessly at weekends alongside our community colleges to vaccinated those in long term residential care, this act alone saved many lives.

I would also like to recognise all those who came back from retirement to support the vaccination centres without you the programme would of failed. In all my years as a nurse working both in the NHS and HSE, I have never been more proud to be part of the Health Care System. As life starts to go back to normal, we must never forget the journey we have been on together over the past 18 months and the role we played in caring for those with COVID and equally the role we played in delivering one of the largest and most important vaccination programme in our time.

Well done and thank you.

Paul Hooton
Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery



Staff at Belmullet Satellite Vaccination Centre.



Staff at Carndonagh Satellite Vaccination Centre.

Women's and Children's Managed Clinical and Academic Network (MCAN)

We continue with scheduled site visits in Q3/Q4 of 2021. We have jointly put together many agenda items for discussion such as winter planning and preparedness, COVID-19 pandemic challenges, IT access following the cyber attack, visiting restriction within Maternity and Neonatology Units, changes to services etc which are all specific at site level.

Work continues with vaccination of our maternity population across all hospital sites within the Saolta Group and this will remain ongoing in the coming months to protect our patients as new versions of the coronavirus are emerging in countries around the world.

Paediatrics

In September we welcomed our National Colleagues from the All Island Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) Network to meet members of the UHG Site and W&C MCAN. This is the first meeting of this CHD Network Group with the MCAN and the aim is to progress the development of the Paediatric CHD Network within the Saolta Group. We have appointed approved funded posts and we welcome this addition to the site.

As we look toward Q4 2021, a key priority for Paediatrics and the W&C MCAN is around preparing for the winter months ahead for paediatric patients. Respiratory illnesses, including colds and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) are very common in young children and we see them every year. Last winter, due to the various restrictions in place to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), there were far fewer infections in younger people. This means many will not have developed immunity and so we may see more cases this year than in a typical season.

Ambulatory Gynaecology Service at LUH

The unit, situated on the Gynaecology Ward, operates clinics four days a week seeing on average 25 patients per week. The unit is staffed by a Candidate Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Ambulatory Gynaecology, a Staff Nurse and a Health Care assistant, with a Clinical Lead Consultant in Obs/Gynae.

The ambulatory model facilitates a dedicated women centred clinic which combining consultation, investigation and in the majority of cases, treatment for women with abnormal uterine bleeding and selected conditions. It is a "See and Treat" model and provides a safe discharge back to GP care. Discharge letters are sent out to GPs, letter with results to patient and GP when histology reported.

The feedback from patients has been positive with shorter waiting times, quicker appointments and shorter recovery time.

Maternity Services

IT systems in the Maternity sites remain a high priority for the MCAN and Saolta Group with recording of data. We have regular site specific meetings in place to discuss IT issues and data collection and to restore access and functionality fully.

We welcomed National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIHP) to Saolta in July, 2021 and held a detailed meeting around each of the maternity related items, supported by NWIHP. We are working with each of the sites to progress approved development posts and service developments.

Our Maternity and Neonatal services have been committed to ensuring that the impact of COVID-19 on services and every mother and partner should be kept to an absolute minimum. We continue to ensure that visiting restrictions are reviewed regularly and updated.

Neonatology Steering Group

Neonatal Clinical Psychology Service is now in place for the Saolta Hospital Group, established in July 2021 as part of the implementation of the Maternity Strategy and the Model of Care for Neonatal Services. This new Service will support perinatal mental health, family centred care and infant development. The service hopes to provide valuable mental health and developmental support services to infants, families and staff in the NICU.

Women's and Children's MCAN Annual Clinical Report (2020)

It is expected the next Women's and Children's MCAN Annual Clinical Report (2020) will be published over the coming months, data has been collected from each of the sites to form the data trends across the Group.

New appointments and best wishes ...

We wish all those who have taken up recent appointments in the Women and Children's Units every success in their new role and we look forward to working with you.



LUH Ambulatory Gynaecology Service
From left: Michelle Burns, Staff Nurse; Shelley Gillespie cANP and Aoife Price HCA Maternity Services.

Update from the Saolta Project Management Office



Spotlight on The HSE Change Guide

Look out for the HSE Change Guide where a process to **Reflect, Recover and Renew** is provided to consider the impact of COVID-19 on staff, service delivery and work practices. It further supports the need to:

- Take time with colleagues to pause and reflect
- Consider the learning and make sense of your experiences
- Identify what individual and team supports are needed
- Plan for how services can be resumed or redesigned
- Consider how new practices can be implemented
- Build on new relationships to sustain improvements

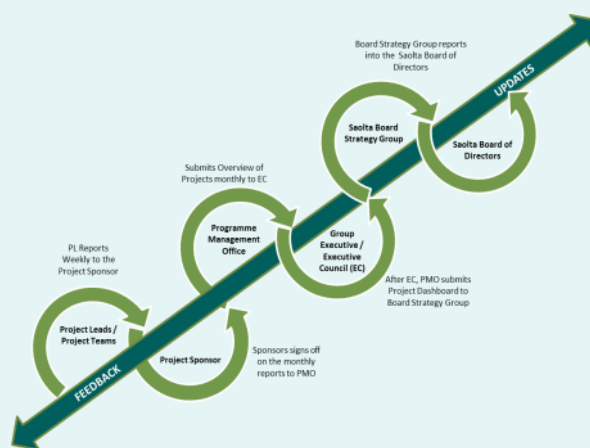
The HSE Change Guide is an excellent resource for any change management programme, providing a step-by-step guide as well as templates to support project and change management. The Saolta PMO will be working with the National Change and Innovation Team to provide further training on the HSE Change Guide in the coming months. Further details are available on the HSE Change Guide section of the HSE website.

Click [here](#) to access.



Project Reporting Communications Pathway

While reporting can be time consuming and frustrating in an already busy environment, the Governance process is essential to support the further implementation of the organisational priorities. It also serves to inform stakeholders on the achievements and allows for replication of this good work across other sites and services. Finally, if issues arise within individual projects, this process allows for escalation and resolution in a timely manner. The image below sets out the Saolta monitoring and oversight process.



Two Key Saolta Projects

Saolta Integrated Governance Project (SIGP)

The Saolta Integrated Governance Project (SIG-P) is continuing in the Trial of Concept phase. Managed Clinical and Academic Networks (MCANs) for both Cancer and Women's and Children's services and are becoming further embedded across the organisation supporting service delivery and development. The MCANs are following a schedule of site visits, which have been very well attended by the respective specialties and are proving very beneficial to both MCANs and hospital sites. An evaluation process will take place in quarter 2, 2022 to inform further decision making in relation to further roll-out of this model across Saolta.

Enhanced Community Care (ECC)

The rollout has started of the national Enhanced Community Care Programme and the introduction of Specialist Ambulatory Hubs. This is part of the Older Persons Programme and the Chronic Disease Management Programme. This is a joint venture between Community Healthcare West and Saolta. The Cardiac, Diabetes and Respiratory Integrated Care Implementation Groups are now in place and are starting to review the existing pathways in order to build on and develop integrated pathways of care. Diagnostic requirements for GP access and for the Specialist hubs are also being considered collaboratively. Recruitment is progressing and workforce and ICT issues are being addressed jointly.

Initial engagement is also taking place with CHO1 (included as part of Phase 2 of the programme).

New Volunteers' Booth at Mayo University Hospital

Mayo University Hospital is delighted to have officially launched its new volunteers' booth donated by Baxter Healthcare in recognition of the hard work and dedication of the hospital staff throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The MUH Volunteer Service has had over 50 members of the community participating in the scheme since its inception in March 2012, with volunteers ensuring patients and visitors have a warm, friendly welcome and are assisted with directions and any information needed.

Catherine Donohoe, Hospital Manager said, "We are very pleased to be able to welcome back our volunteers who, throughout the pandemic, could not be on site due to social distancing and infection control restrictions.

"Patients are at the heart of everything we do and this is most true for our volunteers who demonstrate this in the care, laughs and smiles that they exchange with our patients."

Click [here](#) for more.



From left: Ger O'Neill, Baxter Healthcare; Bernardine McGlade, HR Manager, Mayo University Hospital; Pamela Kilcoyne, Baxter Healthcare; Margaret McNulty, Baxter Healthcare; Jim Casey, MUH Volunteer; Eileen Corrigan, MUH Volunteer; Catherine Donohoe, Hospital Manager.

Maternity Advocate for University Hospital Galway

University Hospital Galway is looking for service user advocate(s) for the maternity department to work with hospital and community health service directors and managers to initiate change and build better maternity services for women and their families accessing care.

Tara Durkin, who has been a service user representative with UHG shared her perspective on what it meant to be part of the maternity unit. She said, "For the past few years I served on the Saolta Maternity Strategy Group and on a Local Maternity Service Group at UHG as a Cuidiú service user representative and voice for women and families accessing services in the maternity units.

"I served alongside Breda Kearns, the AIMS Ireland service user representative. When I started, this was the first role of its kind for service users within maternity services in Ireland and it gave me a seat at a top-level strategy and decision-making table where I was able to bring a unique point of view outside the culture of the health service.

"Being a service user representative and participating in the monthly meetings based in UHG and at Saolta Group level gave me many opportunities to work with hospital managers to initiate change, amplify the voices of the people using Saolta maternity services, to ask the awkward questions, voice my opinion and share the experiences and opinions of other service users." Click [here](#) for more.



Tara Durkin with Siobhan Canny, Saolta Director of Midwifery.

Health Service Excellence Awards 2021

The Health Service Excellence Awards 2021 are designed to identify, recognise the real value we place on excellence and innovation across all of our health service. The Awards process enabled us to identify great service developments that can be shared and implemented, as appropriate, in different parts of our health system.



Congratulations to Maria Lynch, Clinical Nurse Manager in the Rheumatology Department at Our Lady's Hospital Manorbennet for receiving the **Exceeding Expectations - Outstanding Employee Award**.

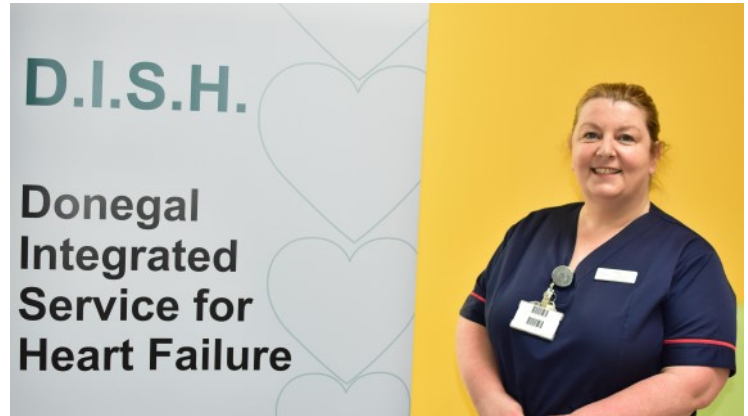
First RANP in Heart Failure at LUH

Cathy Farrell has recently been appointed as a Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner (RANP) in Heart Failure, the first role of its kind in the Saolta Hospital Group. RANPs are the highest level of clinical experts in the nursing profession in Ireland today.

Cathy undertook her nurse training in King's College London. After qualifying in 2006 she worked in coronary care while undertaking her primary degree in critical care nursing, with a focus on cardiology. In 2002 Cathy moved to Donegal and worked as a cardiac rehabilitation nurse specialist until 2006 when she set up the Heart Failure Service in Letterkenny University Hospital. In 2010 she completed a certificate in nurse prescribing to further develop the nurse-led service. In 2015 she completed her Master of Science Degree in Nursing and most recently has completed a graduate certificate in Advanced Practice Nursing in UCD, registering as a RANP earlier this year.

Speaking of her new position as an RANP in Heart Failure Cathy said, "My original role as a heart failure nurse specialist was to support patients by educating them on self-care and managing their medication.

"Over the years, particularly after becoming a registered nurse prescriber, I was keen to develop my skills further to allow a more holistic assessment and management of patients and reduce delays in treatment as a result of the decision-making scope of a RANP qualification." Click [here](#) for more.



Cathy Farrell, Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Heart Failure at Letterkenny University Hospital.

Heart Failure Waiting List down to 6 Weeks

Patients in Galway are saving themselves hours of travel time and hundreds of euros in travel expenses now that they can access routine heart check-ups and care closer to home. This new service, funded by Sláintecare, provides heart failure diagnostics and care in the community, meaning patients can avoid a trip to the hospital.

Galway University Hospitals is running this community-based service with Primary Care centres in Tuam, Gort, Claremorris and Galway City, to allow patients receive care closer to home in a primary care centre. GPs can refer their patients with suspected heart failure directly to the service for tests and diagnosis. This makes it easier for patients to access routine care related to their heart condition.

This new model of care is reducing pressure on hospital services such as Outpatient Cardiology (OPD), Emergency Department (ED) and Acute Medical Units (AMU). Recent results from the service show that:

- Over 1,000 patients have received diagnostic tests through the service; in the last 7 months
- 88% of patients of the service have come through a GP referral;
- 89% of patients received tests within 6 weeks of referral;
- 55% had appointments in 2 weeks or less.

This is compared to common wait-times of 20-26 weeks for the hospital service.

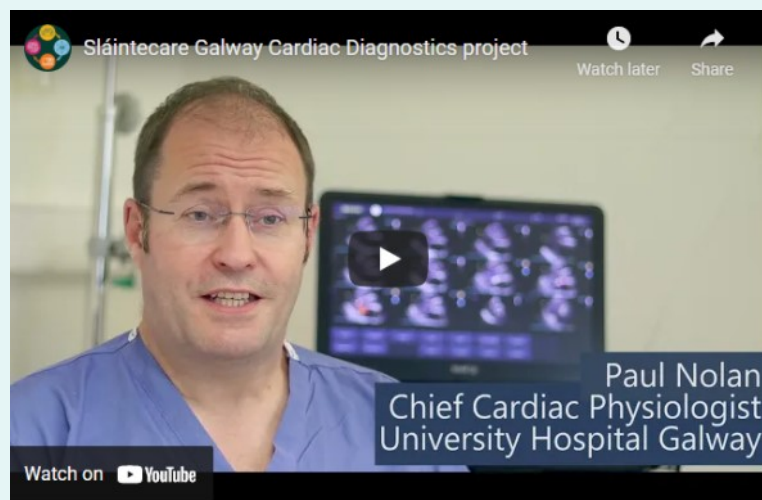
Patients and GPs are delighted with the service:

85% GPs were satisfied or very satisfied with the service;

95% of patients were satisfied or very satisfied with the service;

Over 90% of GPs agreed or strongly agreed that the service reduced referral to cardiology outpatients;

Joined up services between the cardiology department in Galway University Hospitals and Primary Care Centres in the community allows for quick follow-up where a patient requires further care. This means that a patient who requires further care after a primary care centre test, will have an appointment in the acute medical unit the same week, start medication and care straight away and will have access to follow-up care, without having to go through OPD or ED.



Click [here](#) to view video.

PUH Launches PУHMaternity.ie

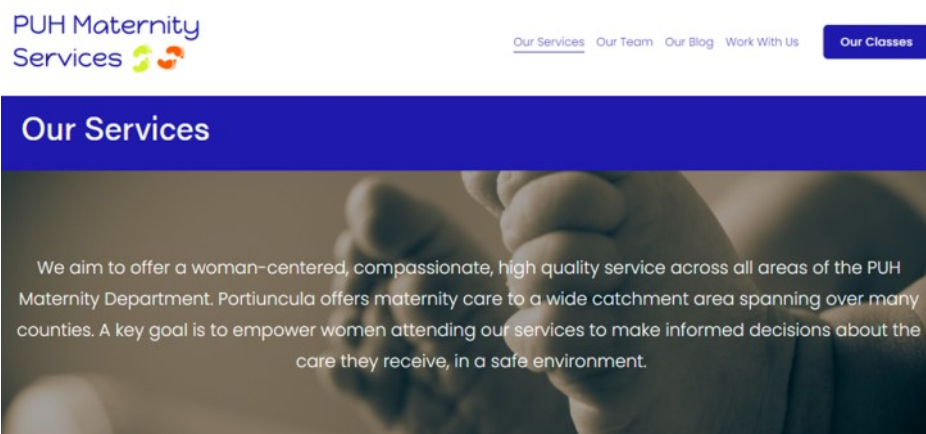
In June, Maternity Services at PУH, in conjunction with the Saolta Women's and Children's Managed Clinical and Academic Network launched a new website which can be found at www.puhmaternity.ie.

The goal of this website is to inform service users in the region of the services available within the Maternity Department, as well as giving women an opportunity to virtually meet many of the staff that they will encounter throughout their journey through the service.

PUH Maternity Services are committed to ensuring that women receiving care have up-to-date, evidence-based information available to them. Women are encouraged to visit the website at the time of their booking visit to get the most up to date, information on COVID-19 during pregnancy and on COVID-19 Vaccination. There is also a blog that will give ongoing information relating to topics of interest. Staff are encouraged to submit blogs for the website and service users are very welcome to suggest topics that they would like to learn more about as part of this blog.

Antenatal classes, including hypnobirthing, labour and delivery classes, and breastfeeding classes are all available online to women booked with PУH Maternity Services.

This new website will soon launch online booking so that women can directly book these classes via the website, making high-quality, evidence-based, women-centered care even more accessible to the women of the PУH catchment area.



ICU4U Cycle of remembrance

In September frontline medical staff from University Hospital Galway set off on the 2-day ICU4U memorial charity cycle to Dublin, a follow on from last year's ICU4U fundraising cycle.

The ICU4U event saw frontline workers from across Ireland cycling to the Memorial Gardens at Islandbridge Dublin in memory of all those who lost their lives to COVID-19 with the aim of raising €150,000 for those impacted by the secondary challenges of the pandemic.

At the end of the cycle a brief commemoration ceremony was held to remember the victims of Covid-19 with over 7000 white roses which were displayed at the Memorial Gardens.

Already more than €130,000 of their €150,000 goal has been raised for older people (ALONE), cancer patients who are particularly vulnerable to the virus, have had their diagnosis delayed, and urgently need new treatments (Breakthrough Cancer Research), mental health (Aware) and (Aware NI)

To support go to: https://www.idonate.ie/event/3038_icu4u2.html



Front L to R: Dr Pat Conroy, ICU Consultant, Tallaght University Hospital; Ms Aine Kelly, Dietitian, Tallaght University Hospital; Mr John Cody, Galway Clinic and Dr Kevin Clarkson, ICU Consultant/ Saolta Clinical Director, Perioperative Directorate.
Middle L to R: Dr John Bates, ICU Consultant, GUH; Dr John Laffey, ICU Consultant, GUH and Dr Cathal MacDonnacha, Specialist Registrar, Intensive Care.
Back L to R: Mr Przemyslaw Mrugalski; Dr Michael Scully, ICU Consultant, GUH; Ms Ann Cosgrove, Chief Operations Officer, Saolta; Dr Brian Kinirons, ICU Consultant, GUH and Dr Brian McNicholl, Emergency Medicine Department, GUH.

Patient Advice Liaison Network

Patient Advice Liaison is a service created to provide advice and support to patients and their families. PALS officers act as a catalyst for change and improvement, they analyse and report on issues in hospital service delivery and support staff to develop a responsive culture in the healthcare setting. Patient Advice Liaison officers can be the person of contact within a hospital to send patients in the right direction regarding other services available to help create a smooth discharge. PALS work closely with quality and risk to deal with patient issues and complaints on the floor in an informal capacity, while using this information to enhance care delivery and instigating change.

Mary Connaughton is the PALS officer in UHG who is employed at Nurse Manager level, and as part of this service she creates a link between patients and their families, helping to keep families informed about clinical updates if required providing a personal connection with the outside through virtual visiting which was required during the outbreak of COVID-19. This link allows patients and families to become stakeholders in their own care, not only enhances care delivery, but lowers risk and increases productivity within any healthcare setting.

Mary is setting up a network of PALS officers nationwide to further enhance collaboration between healthcare workers and patients, the network incorporates eight hospitals in the HSE which include UHG, Portlincula, Limerick, Beaumont, The Mater, The Coombe, Tallaght and The Mercy Cork.



Mary Connaughton, Patient Liaison Officer at UHG.

The main goal of this group could be to create a network of communication and collaboration to share ideas about improving care delivery and to connect with patients and their families in the case of transfer from hospital to hospital within the HSE when needed.

The PALS service can be contacted in UHG by contacted by email Pals.Guh@hse.ie.

RUH 80th Anniversary

Later this year at Roscommon University Hospital we will be celebrating our 80th Anniversary.

As part of the celebrations to mark this momentous milestone of delivering healthcare to Roscommon and the surrounding counties, we are inviting former and current staff, patients and members of the wider community to share with us stories, memories and photos of the hospital from the past 80 years.

Stories and photos can be emailed to RUH80@hse.ie or can be sent by post to the General Manager's Office, Roscommon University Hospital, Athlone Road, Roscommon F42 AX61. Please include the names of any persons included in photographs, and include your address so that we can return the photographs.

Please note that material submitted may be published in a book and/or may be publicly exhibited, therefore it is important that consent is obtained from persons featured in any written or photographic material or relatives of that person if they are no longer with us.



Roscommon University Hospital is turning 80

RUH is asking the public for memories, stories or photos as part of their 80th anniversary commemoration

'Friends of Mayo University Hospital' launched



"We are really aware of the generosity of the people of Mayo toward the hospital and we have multiple examples of this generosity including the purchase of our MRI scanner, our existing CT scanner, the Cystic Fibrosis building which are three significant projects. There are multiple other examples in our Oncology, Renal and Medical and many more. We hope to link with the Mayo diasporas worldwide and work toward having the best services we can for our patients by utilising funds for areas that will enhance the patient journey locally."

Join us on Facebook: @FriendsOfMayoUniversityHospital
Donate and Fundraise: www.idonate.ie/FriendsMUH

The official launch of the charity 'Friends of Mayo University Hospital' took place in September.

This registered charity has been established by a voluntary group to fund-raise to enhance and improve the overall hospital experience for patients and their families in Mayo University hospital. The aim is to co-ordinate and organise community fund-raising efforts, and then target the funds raised to the areas in the hospital which are most in need.

Catherine Donohoe, General Manager welcomed the launch of Friends of Mayo University Hospital and stated "I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the team that have worked to bring the 'Friends of Mayo University Hospital' to launch. We set an ambition to get this in place for MUH following the implementation of the framework for ongoing quality improvement.



Members of the Friends of Mayo University Hospital Committee.

Portiuncula launch a new 'Paediatric Advice Line'

PUH launched a new 'Portiuncula Paediatric Advice Line' or P-PAL on 06 September as a Paediatric Quality Improvement Initiative.

Consultant Paediatricians now provide a telephone consultation service to General Practitioners and Community Health Doctors in the catchment area of Portiuncula, for paediatric patients from 0-16 years of age. This is a brand new service and was developed in conjunction with local General Practitioners in the area. It provides an additional resource to obtain an opinion from a Consultant Paediatrician instead of referring to the hospital's Emergency Department or Outpatients.

The aim is to ultimately decrease the number of scheduled care referrals to Paediatrics. This will be achieved by Consultant Paediatricians engaging with General Practitioners and Community Health doctors on a daily basis. The advice line is open from 11am-1pm Monday to Friday. Paediatricians will provide advice over the phone with guidance on educational material for the family and a timely face to face appointment will be facilitated when necessary in the Paediatric Ambulatory Care Unit at Portiuncula.

This service aims to provide patient centred care in a timely efficient manner close to home. It is in keeping with all principles of Sláintecare and The National Clinical Programme for Paediatrics.



World Physiotherapy Day

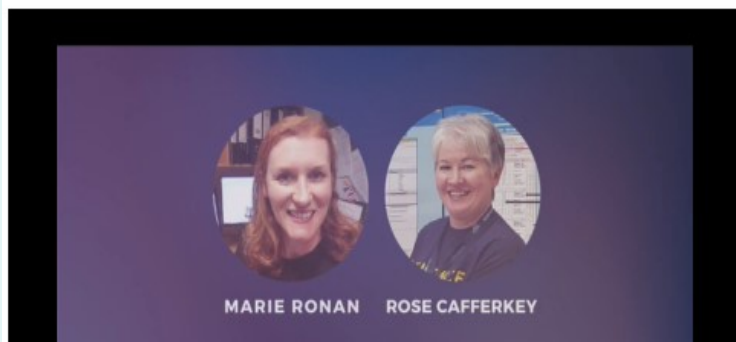


Our wonderful staff at UHG celebrating World Physiotherapy Day in September.

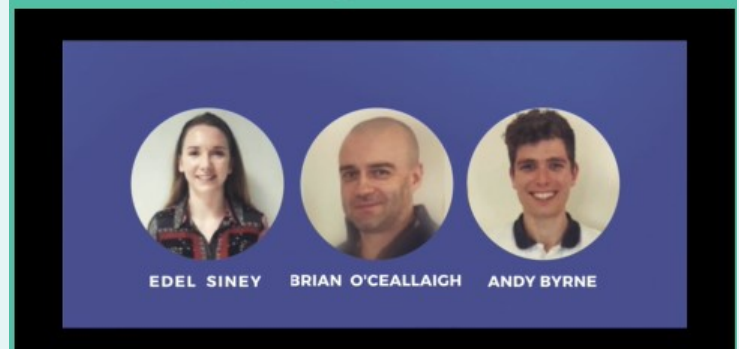
Physiotherapists play a vital role in rehabilitation for people recovering from COVID-19 in the acute phase and when patients have ongoing symptoms associated with long COVID, the post COVID clinic continues to support patients from admission to recovery.

HSE-HIHI Spark Ignite Innovation Competition winners 2020 and 2021

HSE-HIHI Spark Ignite Winners 2020



HSE-HIHI Spark Ignite Winners 2021



Well done to winners in Mayo University Hospital 2020 and University Hospital Galway 2021.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the winning projects. Once on the site click on the 2020 video and fast-forward to 1:04 to learn about MUH's 'Antimicrobial Resistance' project. Click on the 2021 video and go to minute 4:35 to learn about UHG's 'Upper Limb Rehab App'.

Both projects showcase fantastic innovative results while providing better solutions, treatments, and services for patients and staff.

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Saolta University Health Care Group
University Hospital Galway
Newcastle Road
Galway

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