

4.06 Evaluation of community based pulmonary rehab programmes in Limerick: A 6-month analysis
**Máire Curran¹, Brian Fitzgibbon¹, Lauren Kennedy¹, Sarah Cunneen¹, Liam O’Connell¹, Louise Crowley¹,
Maura Cleary¹, Patricia O’Rourke¹, Aidan O’Brien².**

¹Physiotherapy, Integrated Care Programme for Chronic Disease, HSE CHO3

²University Hospital Limerick, Limerick

Pulmonary rehabilitation (PR) has established itself as a key management strategy in the treatment of people with chronic respiratory disease. Care should be focused in the community as much as clinically appropriate in line with the HSE Integrated Model of Care for the Prevention and Management of Chronic Disease. Historically, PR was only delivered in one acute site, at University Hospital Limerick (UHL). Due to COVID-19 and subsequent cancellation of outpatient services, particularly for group settings, as well as a vulnerable population, this resulted in a two year wait time for PR in Limerick.

PR in the community was established as part of the Respiratory Integrated Care service. In February 2022 there were 234 clients waiting for PR with a longest time of 122 weeks at UHL. There were 189 additional referrals between February and August 2022. Various PR venues have been risk assessed and utilised by the PR service such as GAA community halls and hotels ensuring that the venue was suitable, easily accessible to clients in view of choice of locality and had adequate parking.

(4.6)

	Initially	Currently
Wait time	122 weeks	15 weeks
Number of clients waiting	234	94
Parking	€4 per class	All venues sourced have free parking and car park is more accessible.
Location	UHL only	PR programmes have been completed in Limerick City, South Limerick and West Limerick. Locations closer to clients’ home. Reduced travel expenses for clients.
Other considerations	As there is more physical space in community venues and increased staffing levels this enables more clients to be enrolled in each PR programme. However, there is a rental cost for each PR venue which should be considered.	

In conclusion, this new service has reduced PR waiting times and ensured a more accessible location to those living with a chronic lung condition in the community.

Conflict of Interest: None to declare