WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
BY DEPUTY K.G. PAMPLIN OF ST. SAVIOUR
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2021
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2021

Question

Will the Minister –

    (a) advise the current processes that are followed when patients admitted to the Emergency Department require additional tests, scans or referral to a Consultant following initial assessment; and

    (b) provide a breakdown of the length of time between admission and onward referral for Emergency Department admissions occurring between December 2019 and December 2021?
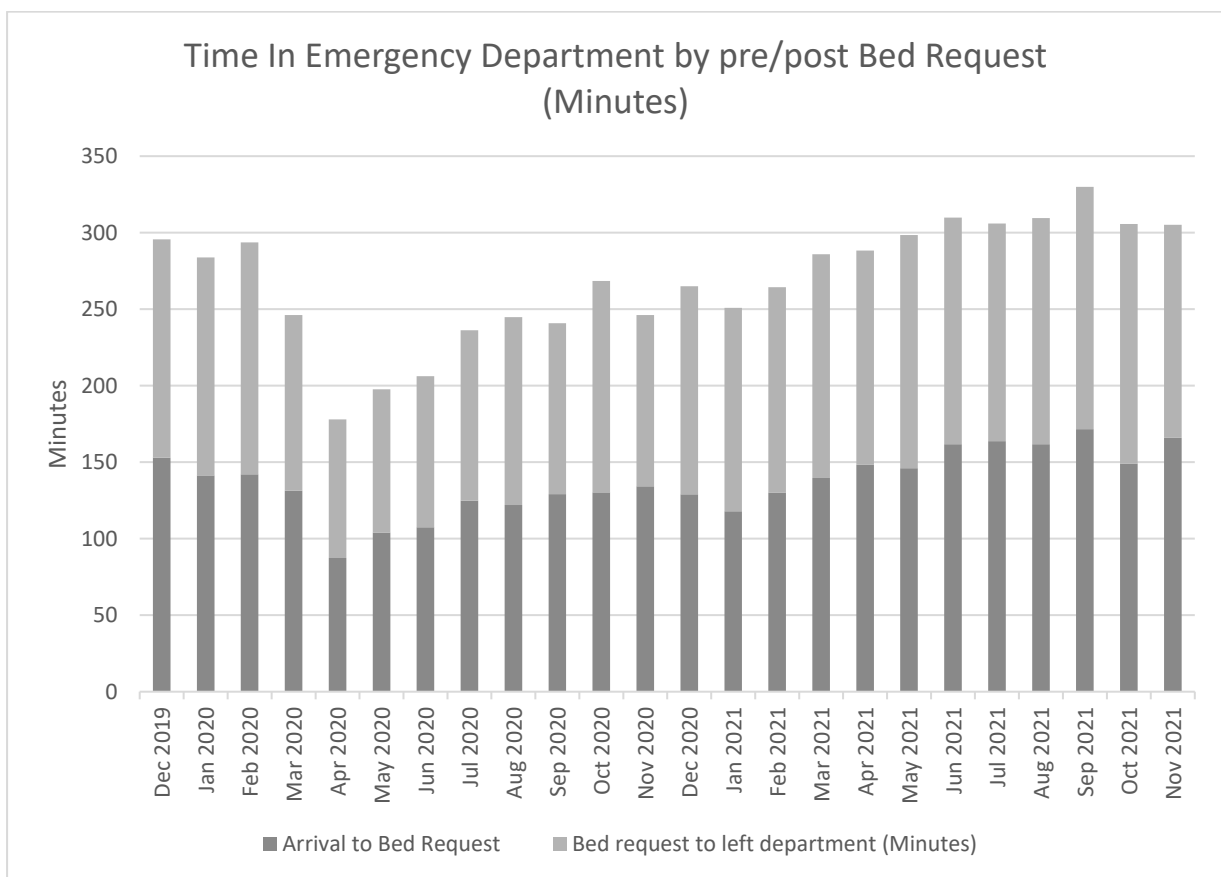
Answer

(a)   When patients attend the Emergency Department (ED), an initial triage is undertaken followed by a doctor assessment. Depending on each individual case, patients may have diagnostics or specialist review undertaken in different ways:

        a.   Patient may have diagnostics or specialist review within the ED.
        b.   The patient may require hospital admission where they will be referred to the speciality team for review and, if required, admitted for further diagnostics, care and treatment.
        c.   The patient is discharged from ED for further review as an outpatient
        d.   The patient is discharged from ED for further review via the GP
        e.   The patient is discharged from ED and returns to the Ambulatory Emergency Care Unit for further review & diagnostics.

(b)   For the period 1 December 2019 to 30 November 2021, the average time from arrival at the Emergency Department to admission to the hospital, and the average time per month from the ED requesting a bed to the patient leaving the department, is shown below:

Month and Year of Attendance	Number of Patients Admitted following ED attendance	Average Total Time in Emergency Department from Arrival to Admission (Minutes)	Average Time from Bed request to Leaving department (Minutes)
Dec 2019	470	295.67	142.70
Jan 2020	455	283.85	142.50
Feb 2020	437	293.62	151.56
Mar 2020	317	246.17	114.80
Apr 2020	200	177.96	90.61
May 2020	297	197.59	93.58
Jun 2020	378	206.16	98.74
Jul 2020	355	236.19	111.36
Aug 2020	402	244.78	122.75
Sep 2020	360	240.79	111.64
Oct 2020	439	268.44	138.18
Nov 2020	377	246.21	111.91
Dec 2020	359	265.00	135.97
Jan 2021	373	250.90	132.95
Feb 2021	353	264.35	134.24

Mar 2021	413	285.89	146.17
Apr 2021	396	288.33	140.07
May 2021	409	298.48	152.36
Jun 2021	431	309.85	148.10
Jul 2021	434	305.99	142.29
Aug 2021	434	309.59	147.79
Sep 2021	427	329.96	158.35
Oct 2021	455	305.66	156.60
Nov 2021	505	305.20	139.30

Data Source: Hospital Patient Administration System (TrakCare, Report ED5A)

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