

# Independent review to inform decision-making on the design and delivery of urgent and emergency healthcare services in HSE Mid West



## Why did we complete this review?

In 2024, HIQA was requested to conduct an independent review into HSE Mid West due to concerns for patient safety in the region.

## Who did we consult?



HIQA completed an extensive stakeholder engagement exercise, including:

- **17** in-person meetings with stakeholders.
- **1,121** public consultation submissions.
- An **Expert Advisory Group** was also convened to consult on this independent review.

## What did we find?



The core issue is that there are not enough inpatient beds in HSE Mid West which are capable of treating the sickest patients who present for urgent or emergency care.

**We recommended immediate action and investment to address current risks to patient safety in the shortest timeframe and safest way possible.**

## How do we achieve safer healthcare in the Mid West Region?

We presented three potential options to the Minister for Health on how to achieve this in the short and long term.

### Option A:

#### Expand

Expand capacity at University Hospital Limerick (UHL) on the Dooradoyle site.

### Option B:

#### Extend

Extend the UHL hospital campus to comprise a new second site in close proximity under a shared governance and resourcing model.

### Option C:

#### Develop

Develop a Model 3 hospital in HSE Mid West, providing a second emergency department (ED) for the region.

HIQA's view is that **options A and B** are most likely to increase the number of available inpatient beds of the required type in the shortest timeframe, addressing the immediate risk to patient safety.