



## Plea to help Cystic Fibrosis sufferers

ALTHOUGH Cork University Hospital (CUH) deals with 1,000 Cystic Fibrosis (CF) reviews annually, there is no dedicated unit or isolation rooms to manage this disease. The *Evening Echo* is today backing a campaign for the creation of a specialist unit and dedicated beds for CF sufferers at CUH to give people who suffer from this complex illness a better chance of survival. Almost 200 people suffer from

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CF in this region. Despite Ireland having the highest incidence per capita of the degenerative disease globally, we fall well behind the rest of Europe when it comes to its treatment.

The average life expectancy for a CF patient in Ireland for the past five years is 21.5 years.

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## CF sufferers need unit

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This compares with 30 years in Northern Ireland and 33 to 34 in Australia and the US.

The *Evening Echo* is this week running an awareness campaign as we do not believe that geography should dictate what services are put in place and how long people will live.

For a patient with CF their biggest stumbling block is cross infection, and yet in Cork adult CF sufferers continue to be treated in general wards when an isolation room is not available — and often have to be admitted through busy A&E facilities.

In Cork and Kerry a group of concerned families and friends of CF sufferers have come together to form the Build4life group, in the hope of raising €1 million for the provision of a specialist unit at Cork University Hospital.