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03rd January 2020

Deputy McGrath, T.D.,
Dail Eireann,
Kildare St.,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy McGrath,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your Parliamentary Question below which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

PQ 52011/19:- To ask the Minister for Health the person or body responsible for the implementation of the HSE report on Lymphoedema and Lipoedema Treatment in Ireland 2018; the details of the implementation plan; the timeline for same; his plans to ensure access to services for lymphoedema, primary and secondary patients; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael McGrath

It was agreed at the HSE's Commissioning Oversight Group (COG) meeting held in April, 2019 that Primary Care Strategy & Planning should move ahead with the planning for the lymphoedema/lipoedema model of care and approved a proposal for two lymphoedema proof of concept sites, one in primary care and one acute early detection service in oncology and the development of clinical guidelines for lymphoedema.

The early detection proof of concept project in the Mater Hospital is in the planning stage and it is anticipated it will commence in December 2019 with full roll out in January 2020.

The Specialist Lymphoedema Clinic in Laois/Offaly is in the planning stage of the project with an anticipated commencement date in Quarter 1, 2020.

There is an overall 3 year implementation plan to develop specialist lymphoedema clinics in all CHO areas in line with population need as set out in the model of care and provide early detection services in all acute oncology centres.

On evaluation of the proof of concept sites the HSE will seek to resource full implementation of the 3 year plan. These services will be available for all types of lymphoedema regardless of aetiology including paediatrics and lipoedema services.

The development of the clinical guidelines is a cross border initiative, with experts from north and south and will be All Ireland guidelines. The new clinical guidelines will form the clinical foundation which will ensure that all services provide evidence based care which is safe, standardised and effective.

There is a proposal to develop an interim paediatric service in Crumlin hospital in line with the rollout of the Model of Care. The HSE will seek to resource this in the context of the 2021 resource package and evaluation of the Proof of Concept initiative.

Yours sincerely,

Geraldine Crowley,
Assistant National Director,
Primary Care Strategy and Planning