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Deputy Bobby Aylward TD

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

PQ No. 29677/19 To ask the Minister for Health the steps he has taken to ensure adequate step down and rehabilitation services for those that suffer from stroke upon discharge from inpatient hospital care; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Aylward ,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The national stroke programme is finalising its 5 year strategy for stroke which includes addressing the concept of 'restoration to living' after stroke which encompasses the necessary multi-disciplinary approach to recovery after stroke in hospital and at home and patients' entitlement to same.

Recovery from stroke can be complex and has many phases but is not best served by the term 'step-down' but rather by the notion of ensuring patients have appropriate access to specialist multidisciplinary stroke-neuro-rehabilitation teams in our acute stroke units, non-acute hospitals, day hospital settings or in the patient's own home.

The national stroke programme has mapped the therapy staff deficiencies in our acute stroke units and have submitted same for address to the health budget submissions 2019 and have made a comprehensive €2million application under the Sláinte Care Integration fund to roll out Early Supported Discharge (ESD) which is the accepted model of care for many stroke patients to have their rehabilitation needs met at home. If this funding is approved this would ensure we have ten full stroke multidisciplinary teams capable of facilitating discharge from hospital to home with full rehabilitation services.

The plan is then to roll out a second phase of ESD to cover all acute hospital areas. In addition to the above, the Irish Heart Foundation together with the national stroke programme is piloting the role of a **stroke care worker** as a specific resource for stroke patients after discharge from hospital in the Kilkenny region and a national model of care for neuro rehabilitation in hospital and community has been published which the national stroke programme is seeking to fully implement for stroke patients.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,



Emma Benton

General Manager

Acute Operations