



Géaroibríochtaí
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Date: 31/05/2019

Deputy Fiona O'Loughlin TD

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

PQ No. 22967/19: To ask the Minister for Health the number of nurses employed to assist with persons that have Parkinson's disease; his plans to employ more nurses in the area; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Loughlin,

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.

Currently there are 5 nurses attached to Acute hospitals as follows

- University Hospital Limerick, Dooradoyle – 1 post
- St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin – 1 post
- AMNCH Tallaght – 1 post
- Mater Hospital, Dublin – 1 post
- Galway University Hospital – 1 post (Movement Disorder)

The National Clinical Programme for Neurology in its Model of Care (2016) outlines a Parkinson's disease pathway to serve the Irish population. It is acknowledged that there is a need to develop services for those with Parkinson's disease in line with international standards, which includes the expansion of access to specialist nursing throughout the country in keeping with international ratios and standards.

In support of this, two additional Clinical Nurse Specialist posts have been approved in 2018 to support the development of the Deep Brain Stimulation service for Parkinson's Disease in the Mater Hospital. Additionally, funding has been provided for a Consultant Neurologist (0.5 WTE), a Psychologist (1WTE), a Speech and Language Therapist (1WTE), a Physiotherapist (0.5 WTE) and Administration

support (1 WTE). This will be a co-ordinated, multi-disciplinary all Ireland service with both peri-operative and post-operative care being provided in Dublin.

The National Clinical Programme for Neurology acknowledges the need to continue the expansion of neurology services and continues to support and advocate for the realisation of the Model of Care. Funding has been sought through the annual estimates process for a lead Neurology Nurse with the National Clinical Programme specifically to progress the development of nursing roles in Neurological care throughout the country.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,



Emma Benton

General Manager

Acute Operations