



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Stiúrtóra Náisiúnta um Phleanáil agus Chlaochlú Straitéiseach
Seomra 2.49, Ospidéal Dr Steevens', Lána Steevens', BAC D08 W2A8
Tel: 01-6352041 R:strategicplanning@hse.ie

Office of the National Director Strategic Planning and Transformation
Room 2.49, Dr Steevens' Hospital, Steevens' Lane, Dublin D08 W2A8
Tel: 01-6352041 Email: strategicplanning@hse.ie

Deputy Louise O'Reilly
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

14 August 2020

Ref - PQ Number: 18039/20

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your above referenced Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health. The question concerned was referred to Strategic Planning and Transformation, HSE, for review and direct response. Our response to the PQ concerned, as provided by General Manager, NCAGL Office for Chronic Disease, Mairead Gleeson.

PQ Number: 18039/20: To ask the Minister for Health the rehabilitation needs being met by cardiac rehabilitation services; the geographical disparities that exist with cardiac rehabilitation; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Response:

The policy context for development in Cardiac Rehabilitation is the Department of Health's Changing Cardiovascular Health: National Cardiovascular Health Policy 2010 - 2019, which contains six recommendations addressing the areas of improving access, ensuring equity, addressing quality, endorsing different models of CR and promoting effectiveness and efficiency through ICT developments and appropriate governance. More recently the HIQA HTA (2016) and the HSE's National Self-Management Support Framework identified cardiac rehabilitation as one of the most cost effective methods of supporting patients to self-manage, and improving clinical and health service usage outcomes (resulting in a 30% reduction in hospitalisation in 1 year). The provision of cardiac rehabilitation capacity to meet the population needs is a top priority under the Self-Management Support Framework which is being implemented at present, see <https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/hl/selfmanagement/hse-self-management-support-final-document1.pdf>.

International guidelines all recommend cardiac rehabilitation for patients with MI, unstable angina (ACS), coronary artery revascularisation and heart failure. The guidelines also recommend cardiac rehabilitation for a variety of other cardiac conditions e.g. heart valve surgery, stable angina, cardiac myopathy, ICD insertion, transplant, adult congenital heart disease, high risk cardiovascular patients, diabetes type 11, stroke, TIA, VAD insertion and PAD. There is some slight variation among the guidelines on these latter diseases. As at



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the last survey of CR (2016) there are 33 hospital based cardiac rehabilitation centres in Ireland, all of which provide cardiac rehabilitation for patient with ACS, revascularisation, heart valve surgery and heart failure. A varying number provide rehabilitation for the other recommended conditions.

The HSE does not have current information from each Hospital regarding their level of cardiac rehabilitation. A survey of cardiac rehabilitation services carried out nationally in 2016, as referenced above, indicated that 39% of the need for cardiac rehabilitation was being met nationally.

The HSE collaborated with HIQA to carry out a HTA for self-management support and HIQA reported that cardiac rehabilitation is one of the most cost effective methods of educating patients and giving them the skills needed to self-care for cardiac conditions. The HSE's Clinical Programmes have prioritised the development of cardiac rehabilitation around the Country and made new service development bids in 2017, 2018 and 2019 for strengthening of the service. Unfortunately due to competing priorities and demands on the healthcare budget no additional funding has been made available.

The HSE is currently developing a bid for 2021 under The Enhanced Community Care Fund 2020-2021 which proposes the development of specialist cardiac rehab teams for a population of 150,000 and discussions are ongoing with the Department of Health. The new National Heart Programme will continue to prioritise the development of Cardiac Rehabilitation services.

I trust this information, as provided by our Group Clinical Lead for Health and Wellbeing, is of assistance to you.

Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact this office on 01 6352041 or via email strategicplanning@hse.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Gavin O'Neill

Gavin O'Neill, Assistant National Director
Strategic Planning & Transformation