



13th August 2020

Deputy Neasa Hourigan,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 19899/20 - To ask the Minister for Health his plans to improve access to essential services for those with Parkinson's disease such as to neurologists, physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy and dietetics; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Neasa Hourigan

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

With regarding to access to Community Therapy services for sufferers of Parkinson's disease, there are no specific dedicated community therapy teams to those diagnosed as such. Patients with Parkinson's Disease who are referred to community therapy services will have their referral reviewed by the relevant clinician and a clinical decision will be made as appropriate.

All Neurology centres across the country accept referrals for persons with Parkinson's Disease, where the patient will be triaged, assessed, provided with the appropriate intervention and on-going support. Neurology services work closely with community teams who provide on-going Multidisciplinary team support in the community to those living with Parkinson's disease.

Neurology services are based in the following acute hospitals:

- University Hospital Limerick
- University Hospital Galway
- University Hospital Sligo
- The Mater University Hospital
- Tallaght University Hospital
- Beaumont University Hospital
- St Vincent's University Hospital
- St James University Hospital
- Waterford University Hospital
- Cork University Hospital

Currently there are 5 Parkinson's specialist nursing staff attached to the following acute hospitals where a more dedicated service for persons with Parkinson's disease is provided.

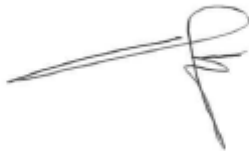
- University of Limerick Hospital
- St Vincent's University Hospital
- Tallaght University Hospital
- Mater University Hospital Dublin
- Galway University Hospital

Additionally, in 2018 funding was provided for the development of the Deep Brain Stimulation service for Parkinson's Disease in the Mater Hospital, Dublin. The team funded consists of a Neurologist, a Psychologist, a Speech and Language therapist, a Physiotherapist and administration support. This is a coordinated all Ireland service providing both peri-operative and post-operative care for those requiring DBS. This service is fully operational from early 2020.

The National Clinical Programme for Neurology launched its Model of Care for the Republic of Ireland in 2016 and within it there is a Parkinson's disease pathway. It is widely acknowledged that there is a need to develop services for those with Parkinson's disease in line with international standards recommended within the model of care. The Neurology National Clinical Programme continues to support the on-going realisation of the model of care and acknowledges the concerns raised in the question.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Pp

Siobhán McArdle,
Head of Operations Primary Care,
Community Operations