



Dearadh agus Nuálaíocht Chliniciúil; Oifig an Príohoifigeach Cliniciúil  
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Deputy Louise O'Reilly, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**RE: PQ 10945/20**

**To ask the Minister for Health the costs associated with decision-supported software for emergency stroke radiology assessment and case selection for thrombectomy treatment; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme for Stroke on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

The mechanical retrieval of clot in ischaemic stroke has the potential to 'cure' many strokes quickly resulting in faster discharges and resumption of independent life. It is a relatively new and highly skilled technology. This intervention is provided at Cork University Hospital and Beaumont Hospital.

It is the view of the National Clinical Programme for stroke that decision supporting software is necessary to support the appropriate identification of stroke cases for transfer from referring regional stroke services in a more timely fashion and to ensure efficient use of a skilled and expensive resource and ultimately maximise patient safety and outcomes.

In order to assist in providing equality of access to acute stroke imaging and the potential to be referred for thrombectomy around the country, it would cost up to €150,000 to renew the on-trial software licences and extension to include all acute hospitals admitting stroke patients for the next 12 months.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

**Patricia Gilson O'Neill**  
**General Manager**