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30th June 2020

Deputy Louise O'Reilly, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 10946/20

To ask the Minister for Health the costs associated with further development of early supported discharge for stroke; 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.

Early Supported Discharge (ESD) for stroke is an international model of best care for stroke patients (Langhorne 2017) that improves patient outcomes and accelerates discharge home from hospital through the provision of stroke specific rehabilitation in the home setting. A consensus has emerged from international research that stroke survivors with mild to moderate disability are suitable for an ESD approach to continuing rehabilitation while the needs of survivors with more severe disability are better met by specialised inpatient rehabilitation. ESD can be expected to improve disability outcomes, quality of life, reduce the likelihood of long-term institutional care and reduce the length of stay in hospital. Key results of the Cochrane review (2017) showed a reduction of 5-6 days for hospital stay in the ESD group, and six months after stroke ESD patients were more likely to be living at home and to be independent in daily activities (Langhorne P, 2017).

The recommendations of the Stroke Strategy with respect to ESD are outlined in three phases:

1. Consolidation of existing six ESD teams = €876,570
2. ESD Service Expansion – Year 1 = €1,112,649
3. ESD Service Expansion - Year 2 = €953,712

Total cost to provide enhanced ESD as recommended by the National Clinical Programme for Stroke to provide services to 20% of stroke discharges is €2,942,931. This will result in a projected 5,124 hospital bed days saved with a total and net cost saving of €4,386,144 and €1,398,226 respectively.

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 Gilsean O'Neill
General Manager