



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta um Phleanáil agus Chlaochlú Straitéiseach
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Deputy Louise O'Reilly
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

30 June 2020

PQ Number: 10957/20

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 the Clinical Lead for Health and Wellbeing, Dr. Orlaith O'Reilly, is set out below.

PQ Number: 10957/20 : To ask the Minister for Health the rehabilitation needs being met by cardiac rehabilitation services; the geographical disparities that exist with cardiac rehabilitation; the costs associated with providing national capacity for cardiac rehabilitation for persons for which cardiac rehabilitation is recommended; 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,



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VAD insertion and PAD. There is some slight variation among the guidelines on these latter diseases. As at the last survey of Cardiac Rehabilitation (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 2019 for strengthening of the service. Unfortunately due to competing priorities and demands on the healthcare budget no additional funding has been made available to date in 2020. The HSE submitted a business case for enhanced community services to the Sláintecare Programme Office, Department of Health, which has identified again the need to strengthen cardiac rehabilitation services nationally.

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
Assistant National Director, Strategic Planning & Transformation