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Deputy Joe O'Brien TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ No 11862/20 To ask the Minister for Health the staffing levels nationally in terms of health specialists focused on the treatment of Parkinson's disease; and his plans to expand access to neurologists, more nurse specialists and referrals of all patients to services such as physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy and dietetics.

Dear Deputy O'Brien,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Response:

I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

All Neurology centers across the country accept referrals for persons with Parkinson's Disease, where the patient will be triaged, assessed, provided with the appropriate intervention and ongoing support. Neurology services work closely with community teams who provide ongoing 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 programme continues to support the ongoing realisation of the model of care.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,



Emma Benton

General Manager

Acute Operations