



Géaroibríochtaí
Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas, An Bóthar
Míleata Cill Mhaighneann, Baile Átha Cliath 8

Acute Operations
Unit 4A, The Dargan Building, Heuston South Quarter,
Military Road, Kilmainham, Dublin 8

☎: 0179 59971 📧: ncagl.acutehospitals@hse.ie

Date: 20th May 2020

Deputy Michael Healy Rae TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ No. 4206/20 To ask the Minister for Health the plans that can be put in place to assist people suffering from Parkinson's who are not getting access to essential health services particularly outside the capital, there are only 2 Parkinson's nurse specialists in the 25 counties outside of Dublin which is beneath the recommended amount for our population The huge gap means more hospital admissions of Parkinson's patients so it is a false economy and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Healy Rae,

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.

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to the above representation, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Currently in Ireland, there are 5 Parkinson Disease Nurses attached to acute Neurology centers

- University Hospital Limerick, – 1 post
- St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin – 1 post

- Tallaght University Hospital, Dublin– 1 post
- Mater Hospital, Dublin – 1 post
- Galway University Hospital – 1 post

Additionally in 2018, funding was provided for a coordinated, multidisciplinary All Island Deep Brain Stimulation service for Parkinson's disease, based in the Mater Hospital, Dublin which includes a Consultant Neurologist post (0.5WTE); a Psychologist (1WTE); a speech and language therapist (1WTE); a Physiotherapists (0.5WTE); and an administrator (1WTE). This service is staffed and operational.

The Neurology National Clinical Programme's overarching aim is that patients should have equitable access to a high-quality responsive service which provides accurate diagnosis and appropriate management for all neurological conditions including those with Parkinson's disease. The Model of Care for Neurology (2016) includes a care pathway for the management of persons with Parkinson's Disease which outlines the need for specialist care from a Multidisciplinary team in order to support the management of symptoms including mobility; functional independence; effective communication, swallowing etc.

Furthermore, the National Implementation Framework (2019-2021) for the National Strategy and Policy for the provision of Neuro-Rehabilitation Services in Ireland describes the fundamental principles of design and service delivery required to implement the strategy over the next 3 years. Developments as outlined in the implementation framework regarding community rehabilitation will be welcomed across the Republic of Ireland. It is well documented that maintaining wellbeing within community settings, near to the person's home is recommended as central to the management of conditions such as Parkinson's disease.

We acknowledge the need to continue the expansion of neurology services and continue to support the realisation of the Model of Care and the Neuro Rehabilitation Strategy for this population group and others.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,



Emma Benton

General Manager

Acute Operations