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22nd September 2020

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

RE: PQ 21588/20

To ask the Minister for Health the CHO areas in which heart failure community integration teams are operating; the gaps that exist; the work carried out by the teams in each area; his plans to standardise same; 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 Heart Programme on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Integrated care clinical nurse specialists (IC CNS's) provide specialist heart failure reviews in local GP practices and facilitate GP-provided optimal medical care for heart failure. They provide improved treatment in the community through CNS-GP aided care, saving in travel time for patients and families, and reducing the need for attendance at hospital based outpatient services. The IC CNS is an 80%/20% integrated nursing role, general practice and secondary care based respectively.

This service was first piloted in the Carlow-Kilkenny area. These IC CNS's also support GP's to refer patients into the heart failure virtual consultation clinic in the St Vincent's/ St Michael's Hospital Heart Failure Unit. These services have now been mainstreamed.

Consolidation and scale-up of these two integrated care services are the basis for the current Slaintecare Integration Fund (SIF) Project 237 – Heart Failure Virtual Consultation Service with Integrated Care Clinical Nurse Specialist Supports in the Community. This project has allowed expansion of the service in the East Coast as well as establishment of a new service in the Dublin North/ Mater Hospital area.

These are currently the only 2 IC CNS in Heart Failure in the country, one of which is currently redeployed to Covid contact tracing efforts. A further 4 posts have recently been advertised for CHO 6 and CHO 9 as part of SIF Project 237.



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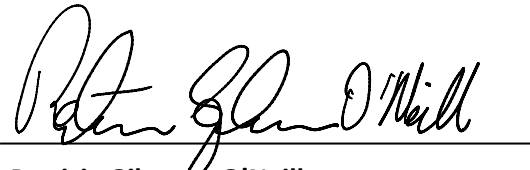
Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
á Forbairt

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To provide the community aspects of this service, approximately 4 IC CNS's are required in each of the nine community healthcare organisational areas with some additional in urban areas.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Patricia Gilsenan O'Neill', written over a horizontal line.

Patricia Gilsenan O'Neill
General Manager

