



National Lead for Palliative Care

Strategy and Planning
Room 133, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8, Eircode D08 W2A8
Tel: 01 6352270 Email: sheilagh.reaper-reynolds@hse.ie

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta um Chúram Mhaolaitheach

Straitéis agus Pleanáil
Seomra 133, Ospidéal Dr Steevens', Baile Átha Cliath 8, Eircode D08 W2A8
Tel: 01 6352270 Email: sheilagh.reaper-reynolds@hse.ie

Carol Nolan TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

27th October 2020

PQ 27626/20

To ask the Minister for Health the funding provided by his Department for the provision of adult and paediatric palliative care in each CHO area; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Nolan,

The Minister has requested the HSE to respond directly to you on this matter and I apologise for the delay in doing so.

Adult Services

Please see the table below, showing the January 2020 palliative care budget allocation by CHO.

Table 1: January 2020 Palliative Care Budget Allocation

CHO	€
1	6,598,940
2	7,031,984
3	11,745,223
4	12,949,199
5	1,431,588
6	488,062
7	26,200,378*
8	6,525,119
9	11,915,412
National	2,799,831
Total	87,685,736

*The Service Level Arrangement with Our Lady's Care Services in Harold's Cross (CHO7) includes the budget for Blackrock Hospice (CHO6) as well as an allocation for services for older people and rheumatology which fall under the governance of OLH. The palliative care allocation is just under €15m.

It should be noted that the amounts as indicated

- are primarily for adult services;
- include HSE services as well as services provided under SLA with voluntary organisations;
- include some budget allocated to chronic disease.

Furthermore the table does not include

- the majority of palliative medicine consultant posts which are paid through acute hospitals – most consultants also work in hospices and in the community;
- specialist palliative care services provided in acute hospitals;
- the care provided by GPs and primary care teams;
- home care packages, aids and appliances funded through primary care / social care budgets;
- medication provided to patients at home;

- the cost of care provided in palliative care support beds, located mainly in residential care units across the country;
- an additional €10.68m in sustainability/Covid-19 pandemic funding for the six members of the Voluntary Hospice Group (made available in April and October);
- the 2020 budget to be allocated to open three new specialist palliative care inpatient units (hospices) in Waterford, Mayo and Wicklow and to extend the bed capacity in Kildare.

The national budget includes grants to the Irish Cancer Society and Irish Hospice Foundation for the delivery of the end-of-life care Night Nursing Service; the All Ireland Institute for Hospice and Palliative Care for education and support programmes as well as a number of other palliative care initiatives.

Children's Palliative Care

There are approximately 370 childhood deaths each year due to life-limiting conditions; 57% occur in the first year of life, and many of these children sadly die in hospital within weeks of being born. The number of children who die in the community due to a life-limiting condition is relatively small. Of the 71 children being supported by palliative care who died in 2019 it is estimated that 29 children died at home.

One of the cornerstones of children's palliative care is to facilitate a fully integrated approach to care; therefore children being cared for at home in the community are supported by a wide range of services provided by statutory and voluntary organisations. These include adult palliative care, disability, GP and primary care services. Therefore, it is not possible to determine the exact amount budgeted by the different components of the health system in supporting these children and their families. However, there is a group of HSE funded healthcare professionals whose sole function is to provide palliative care for this cohort of children. This includes 11 Clinical Nurse Coordinators for Children with Life-Limiting Conditions, two Consultant Palliative Care Paediatricians and 1.5 Clinical Nurse Specialists in CHI Crumlin. Although they work across both hospital and community all of these posts are employed through the acute system and not the CHOs. Taking these WTEs and salaries into consideration **the budget allocation in 2020 is approximately €1.36m.**

It should be noted that this does not include

- the support provided by adult palliative care services;
- the care provided by GPs, primary care teams and disability services;
- home care packages, aids and appliances funded through primary care / social care budgets;
- an annual grant to Jack and Jill.

I trust this answers your question but please do not hesitate to contact me should you require anything further.



Sheilagh Reaper-Reynolds
National Lead for Palliative Care
Strategy and Planning