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

RE: PQ 21100/21

To ask the Minister for Health the status of the implementation of recommendations 5.6 and 5.7 of Changing Cardiovascular Health: National Cardiovascular Health Policy 2010 – 2019; the actions that were taken to ensure full implementation; the aspects outstanding; 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.

The practical evolution of the change required to become an intensive cardiac care unit is occurring. A unit by unit needs analysis is required to assess investment requirements to modernise infrastructure.

The development of integrated care for chronic disease, including specialist cardiology services referenced in the Sláintecare report, will provide a secure foundation on which to assure treatment plans and specifically, cardiac rehabilitation needs, are provided for in a seamless fashion, commencing in hospital and continuing post-discharge. The focus on post-discharge care and ongoing community rehabilitation will secure this care for the population in a community setting.

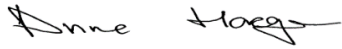
NHP acknowledges the strong evidence base for cardiac rehabilitation (CR) and continues to advocate for resources to support equitable and timely access to CR for all eligible patients living in Ireland. A Model of Care (MoC) for CR Services is currently in development to support achievement of this aim. CR is comprised of a number of phases. Phase I occurs in the inpatient period (information on condition, risk factors and medications). Phase II and Phase III are undertaken on an outpatient basis following discharge, with Phase IV focussed on long term maintenance. The proposed MoC for CR Services will build on current Irish guidelines and incorporate both national and international consensus on the delivery of a timely and effective CR programme.

Recognising the need to develop and deliver integrated, shared care between hospitals and the community, in 2020 significant investment was made through the HSE Winter Initiative and HSE Enhanced Community Care Programme to establish Chronic Disease Specialist Hubs in the community.

These teams will place a significant focus on prevention and self-management support services in the community. As part of this approach, a ring-fenced community-based CR Team will be recruited in each of the chronic disease hubs. The CR Team will be part of a Specialist Multidisciplinary Cardiology Team in the hub.

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



Anne Horgan
General Manager