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16th December 2021

Deputy Jim O'Callaghan,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
e-mail: jim.ocallaghan@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Callaghan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ 59237/21

To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the review of the Neuro-Rehabilitation Services in Ireland from Theory to Action Implementation Framework 2019-2021 and the development of the framework for 2022-2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

Neuro-rehabilitation services play a critical role in supporting recovery and/or maximising ability of those with neurological conditions. We know from our own mapping exercises, that there is a dearth of neuro-rehabilitation services are both inpatient and community levels.

The plan to address this is described within the implementation framework for the Neuro-Rehabilitation Strategy. It outlines a 10-step approach which will see each CHO introducing local implementation teams to oversee and guide the implementation process. It also describes a managed clinical rehabilitation network demonstrator project which is currently progressing through the development of post-acute and community neuro-rehabilitation services across CHO 6 & 7, with full year funding of €2.29m available for 2021.

The learning from the demonstrator project will inform the implementation of the Neuro-rehabilitation Strategy across each CHO and implementation of strategy will roll-out from 2022. This funding included the establishment of 10 additional in-patient beds in Peamount, which are now fully operational.

Key Messages:

- The introduction of the first Managed Clinical Rehabilitation Network in Ireland is hoped to be the exemplar for the national roll-out of the Neuro-rehabilitation Strategy.
- The project, funded by the SláinteCare Redesign Fund, involves the commissioning of 10 new beds at Peamount Healthcare and introducing Multi-disciplinary teams for CHOs 6 & CHO 7, serving patients with complex presentations who do not require inpatient facilities and those who need to transition from hospital to home.



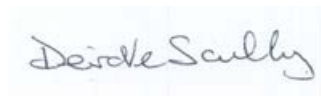
- These new beds introduce some 3,500 additional specialist rehab bed days per annum into the system.
- With average length of stay of approximately 90 days, this means that 40 patients per annum will have their rehabilitation needs met in an appropriate setting outside of acute hospitals.
- The beds are expected to reduce the NRH waiting list by over 30%, and take direct referrals from AMNCH, SJH, SVUH, Beaumont & the Mater for patients with neurological conditions. The multidisciplinary teams will take referrals from hospitals and the NRH and ensure improved inpatient flow and reduced length of stay in the acute setting.

What we want to achieve through this demonstration pilot site MCRN:

- Person centred coordinated approach to patient care.
- Development of appropriately resourced interdisciplinary inpatient, outpatient and home and community based specialist rehabilitation teams supported by education and training.
- Introduction of the three-tier model of complexity-of-need.
- Reduction in Waiting times for assessment and access to inpatient & community rehabilitation services.
- Improved patient outcomes and experience.
- Standardised pathway for people who require neuro rehabilitation.
- Enhanced communication between inpatient and community services to support delivery of the right care, in the right place, at the right time.
- Build up a supporting infrastructure for the demonstration project to deliver neuro rehabilitation to patients as required across the continuum of care.
- Develop a model of care that can be rolled out nationally.

The learning from this will inform the roll out of the strategy nationally. Implementation of the strategy will lead to improved patient experience and improved patient outcomes for all with neurological conditions.

Yours sincerely,



**Ms Deirdre Scully,
Assistant National Director
Change Planning and Delivery, Disability and Mental Health Services**