



21<sup>st</sup> December, 2021

Deputy Richard Bruton,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Bruton,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) 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 Ref: 62283/21**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the details of the pilot homecare scheme which has just started; the locations covered; the way it will be operated; and the outcomes planned for the pilot.**

In recognition that Home Support is a key service within the Irish healthcare system, a targeted work programme of reform of the Home Support Service was included in the Winter Plan and NSP 2021. This included the rollout, operation and evaluation of the Home Support Pilot Project. The Home Support Pilot commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 in the following four pilot sites.

CHO	LHO	Pilot Site – CHN
2	Galway	Tuam, Athenry & Loughrea
4	South Lee	Bandon, Kinsale & Carrigaline
7	Dublin West	Ballyfermot & Palmerstown
8	Longford / Westmeath	East Westmeath

The Home Support Pilot will include the use of the InterRAI single assessment tool which is already being implemented and utilised across the HSE in community and acute settings. The outcomes and findings from the pilot will support the DoH with the development of a Statutory Home Support Scheme which is planned for introduction in 2023. InterRAI is an integral part of the Home Support Pilot Project and is being used to support assessment in all pilot sites for the duration of the pilot in place of the

Community Summary Assessment Report (CSAR). InterRAI provides the HSE with a Single Assessment Tool to support the comprehensive assessment of older people, in that all of the relevant health and wellbeing information about the person is gathered from one assessment process, rather than through a series of individual assessments.

**The Objectives of the Pilot include to:**

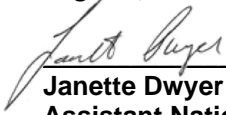
- Track the application, assessment, decision making and delivery of a Home Support services at selected Pilot sites including alignment with 2018 National Guideless & Procedures for the Standardised Implementation of the Home Support Service (HSS Guidelines)
- Implement the single assessment tool (interRAI) for standardising assessment of need
- Gather data provided by InterRAI on the broad set of services required to meet service users' care needs to inform the development of a care banding approach mapped to dependency levels.
- Identify best practice in the standardisation of processes at a local and national level
- Develop a standardised population based process for Home Support service allocation.
- Gather the data on the clinical governance arrangements in place currently in pilot sites for home support as well as best practice clinical governance models to inform the development of an optimum clinical governance model for home support under a statutory scheme.
- Enhance the evidence base for the design of all aspects of the Statutory Home Support scheme including:
  - Determining the appropriate services to be included in a Statutory Home Support Scheme
  - Identifying levels of dependency using interRAI data from the pilot sites to develop appropriate care-bands/case-mix classification, to be used as a basis to resource allocation model
- Commission an action research project to evaluate the findings of the Pilot and support the practice based refinement of the service delivery model through its implementation.
- Independently evaluate a set allocation of home support hours in a discrete population to contribute to the development of a reformed model of Home Support as part of the introduction of a statutory scheme.
- Gather and analyse this data to inform the establishment of a standardised, equitable, quality and cost-effective Home Support service, and contribute to the delivery of enhanced levels of care within the community which will inform national strategy and planning for services for older people.

An independent evaluation will continue for a further 6 months' post-completion of the pilot and this is currently being worked through the tendering process.

Each pilot site has been allocated with an additional resource of an InterRAI Coordinator to support the assessment process as well as additional administrative support. A new Site Working Group, which has membership from both Primary Care and Older Persons Services has been established. This Site Working Group reports into the Home Support Working Group chaired by the Assistant National Director of Services for Older People Change and Innovation and comprising of executive and clinical expertise across the wider health system. Existing clinical governance arrangements in relation to Home

Support Service will remain in place for the Pilot Programme. Each pilot site has established their own Local Implementation Group to ensure collaboration between key pilot stakeholders in the pilot site and CHO.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Janette Dwyer', is positioned above a horizontal line.

**Janette Dwyer**  
**Assistant National Director,**  
**Services for Older People, Change & Innovation**