



Office of A.N.D. Older People and Palliative Care - Strategy
Services for Older People
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5th February, 2021

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy McDonald,

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: 3837/21

To ask the Minister for Health the actions he has taken following publication of the HSE's second National Audit of Dementia Care in Acute Hospitals.

The Irish National Audit of Dementia Care in Acute Hospitals (INAD-2) results were launched on 1st September 2020. Paper copies of the full report and briefer hospital group reports were sent to each participating hospital group, and to key people in each hospital. The National Dementia Office followed-up with a virtual meeting with the 5 participating hospital groups in Q4 2020, to encourage follow-up actions. Many have committed to forming a hospital group level team to drive progress. To complement this, Acute Operations agreed to fund an academic nurse to support selected hospitals in 3 groups in developing local, feasible action plans. This support project will be adapted from previous UK work based on their similar dementia audit, and will begin in March 2021, for 9 months.

Funding was secured in the 2021 budget for 6 new acute hospital dementia specialist posts (one per hospital group), to support person-centred care via dementia/delirium pathway implementation, staff training frameworks, and direct support for complex cases. All groups have chosen the most strategic site, based on INAD-2 data and their knowledge of the local context. A national job description was updated in Q4 2020 by the National Dementia Office, and the recruitment of these posts will begin shortly. We hope for funding for a second post per hospital group in 2022.

Quality Improvement Projects

In 2020, 18 hospitals received small bursaries for quality improvement projects related to dementia care. These are progressing well given the circumstances, and we have recently received their 6-month progress reports, with some deferrals/delays due to COVID-19. We will collate the final reports in Q3 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Sheilagh Reaper-Reynolds

Sheilagh Reaper-Reynolds,
Interim A.N.D. Older People and Palliative Care - Strategy