



Dearadh agus Nuálaíocht Chliniciúil; Oifig an Príohifigeach Cliniciúil
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8th April, 2021

Deputy Claire Kerrane, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 15481/21

To ask the Minister for Health the steps being taken to ensure adequate step down and rehabilitation services for persons that suffer from stroke upon discharge from inpatient hospital care.

Dear Deputy Kerrane,

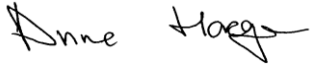
The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme for Stroke on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

The National Clinical Programme for Stroke has recently completed its national stroke strategy for the next 5 years which, in conjunction with implementation of the neuro-rehabilitation model of care and National Integrated Care Programme for Older People (NICPOP), will ensure that comprehensive stroke rehabilitation is available in the acute, recovery and ongoing chronic disease management phase post-stroke. From a national stroke programme perspective, emphasis has specifically concentrated on this phase of the National Stroke Strategy 2021-2026, to address gaps in rehabilitation therapy staff in acute stroke services, where most of stroke rehabilitation is started, ensuring we have comprehensive early supported discharge services across the country to facilitate a successful discharge home. The government has given a commitment in its programme to full implementation of the strategy, which will see an increased designation of 148 acute stroke unit beds and an extra 157 therapy staff for stroke services across our health service.

The National Clinical Programme for Stroke does not recognise the term 'step-down' as a clinical entity, as such terminology can be unhelpful in recognising the complexity and challenges that arise in the different phases of recovery from stroke. In reality, stroke rehabilitation is a continuous process, requiring specialised skills.

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