



Dearadh agus Nuálaíocht Chliniciúil; Oifig an Príohoifigeach Cliniciúil
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Deputy Louise O'Reilly, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 25178/21

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of providing four heart failure clinical nurse specialists per 150,000 population; the number of heart failure clinical nurse specialists currently in place; the number required to meet this target; 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.

It would cost in the region of approx. €259,000 to provide four Heart Failure Clinical Nurse Specialists (HF CNS) per 150,000 population. There are currently circa 39 WTE HF CNS and 11 Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs) in post.

As part of the Enhanced Community Care Programme (ECCP), funding has been made available in Phase 1 ECCP to support 18 Integrated Care Specialist Ambulatory Care Hubs in the community, with an additional 12 hubs planned. Each of these specialist community hubs will have 3 Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) CNS, serving a population of approximately 150,000 and their role will incorporate care of patients with heart failure. To support the roll-out of the community hubs, some acute hospital gaps have also been addressed, with funding being allocated in Phase 1 ECCP for 8.2 WTE Acute CVD CNS. These posts will incorporate provision of care for heart failure patients and support the Specialist Lead overseeing the service 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