



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

**RE: PQ 25181/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of integrated care clinical nurse specialists in heart failure; the number that are in post; the costs of rolling this services out to each CHO; 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.

Integrated care clinical nurse specialists (IC CNS) provide specialist heart failure (HF) reviews in local GP practices and facilitate GP-provided optimal medical care for HF. They provide improved treatment in the community through CNS-GP aided care, saving in travel time for patients and families, and reducing the need for attendance at hospital based outpatient services. The IC CNS is an 80%/20% integrated nursing role, general practice and secondary care based respectively.

This service was first piloted in the Carlow-Kilkenny area, with the introduction of 2 x HF IC CNS (one post is currently vacant, due to redeployment as a result of COVID-19). These IC CNS also support GPs to refer patients into the HF virtual consultation clinic in the St Vincent's/ St Michael's Hospital HF Unit. These services have been mainstreamed.

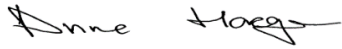
Consolidation and scale-up of these two integrated care services were the basis for a Sláintecare Integration Fund (SIF) Project 237 – Heart Failure Virtual Consultation Service with Integrated Care Clinical Nurse Specialist Supports in the Community. This project has allowed expansion of the service in the East Coast, as well as establishment of a new service in the Dublin North/ Mater Hospital area. Four additional HF IC CNS posts were funded for SIF 237. However, due to COVID-19 and recruitment issues, two of these posts are currently vacant.

It is planned that the above service will now be subsumed into the Enhanced Community Care Programme (ECCP) and delivered as part of an Integrated Care Programme for Chronic Disease. As part of ECCP Phase 1, funding has been made available to support 18 Integrated Care Specialist Ambulatory Care Hubs in the community, with an additional 12 hubs also planned for Phase 2. Each of these specialist community hubs will have 3 Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Integrated Care CNS

working in the community, serving a population of approximately 150,000. Their role will incorporate care of patients with heart failure.

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



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**Anne Horgan**  
**General Manager**