



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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National Renal Office
Clinical Innovation and Design
Health Service Executive
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8th November 2021

PQ Ref: 52776/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients diagnosed with kidney disease in each of the past five years to date; the availability of and proposals to extend home dialysis for patients with this disease; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Response:

Questions 1:

The number of patients diagnosed with kidney disease in the past five years to date:-

Approximately 10% of the adult population ~ (450,000 people) suffer from some form of chronic kidney disease (CKD). CKD is associated with increased burden of medical illness, increased hospital admissions and reduced life expectancy. Most of these patients are managed in a primary care setting. In the early stages, the patient will experience no symptoms and kidney disease tends to progress if undetected and untreated. Most patients with kidney disease have other illnesses that are more relevant to their current and future well-being. It is estimated such patients are 10 times more likely to die prematurely from complications associated with kidney disease than to progress to kidney failure. When kidney disease progresses to kidney failure, the patient will require specialised treatment that may include dialysis and/or kidney transplantation.

Typically, 450 patients commence dialysis treatment each year adding to the total number of patients on dialysis. Approximately 180 of these dialysis patients receive a kidney transplant each year but sadly 220 dialysis patients die each year of their underlying illness.

In the years 2015 to 2019 inclusive, this led to an increase of 303 additional patients being treated by dialysis (52 patients per year). During the same period, the total number of patients living with a kidney transplant increased by 344 patients (74 patients per year). COVID 19 has had a significant impact on renal transplant activity. The National Transplant Programme was suspended for three months and activity remained low throughout 2020. This resulted in an increased demand for dialysis with 111 additional patients being treated by dialysis, with no increase in the total number of patients alive with a kidney transplant in 2020.



As of October 2021, data indicates that 4917 patients in Ireland are receiving Renal Replacement therapy for kidney failure. This data was obtained from the Kidney Disease Clinical Patient Management System (KDCPMS/Emed). 2046 patients are receiving in-centre haemodialysis treatment in either one of 13 Hospital based renal units or in one of 11 HSE contracted satellite units strategically located across the country. 289 patients carry out dialysis therapy in their own homes and 2582 patients are living with a functioning kidney transplant.

The number of patients on renal replacement therapy in Ireland has grown by 30% over the past 10 years, and over 400,000 dialysis treatments (hospital and home based) were delivered by the HSE in 2020.

Question 2

The availability of and proposals to extend home dialysis for patients with this disease:-

All patients on dialysis can avail of home dialysis therapy. There are two types of home dialysis therapies, home Haemodialysis (HHD) or Peritoneal dialysis (PD). There are eight home dialysis training centres geographically spread throughout Ireland with links to all Hospital dialysis units. It takes approximately 2 to 4 weeks to train a patient to carry out peritoneal dialysis in their own home and 8 to 12 weeks to train a patient to carry out home haemodialysis therapy.

In 2021 to support the development and expansion of Home dialysis therapy programme in line with Slaintecare Goals;

- 5 additional Consultant Nephrologists were approved to expand the Home Therapies programme nationally.
- In September this year, 11 renal units providing home therapy supports for Renal Services received funding for a nurse for the remainder of 2021.
- Submission was made to the National Service Plan 2022 to provide an additional 11 WTE Staff nurses including 6 Clinical Nurse Specialists and 6 Dieticians x 0.5 WTEs to facilitate expansion of home dialysis therapies.

The NRO has set a target to increase the uptake of home dialysis therapies from its current 12% to 20%.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,



Prof George Mellotte
National Clinical Lead for Renal Services
National Renal Office

