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2nd December, 2021

Deputy Holly Cairns, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 57393/21

To ask the Minister for Health the steps he is taking to ensure that a stroke discharge plan is put in place for each person who has suffered a stroke leaving an acute hospital setting.

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

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.

Early supported discharge (ESD) for stroke is an international evidence-based model of care for stroke that promotes early discharge to home with proven better outcomes for patients. ESD services aim to accelerate discharge home from hospital and provide rehabilitation in the home setting. Patients' rehabilitation in the home may also be supported by a home care package or Public Health Nurse (PHN) if needed and this is organised prior to discharge.

There are currently six teams providing Early Supported Discharge for Stroke patients in Ireland:

- Mater Misericordiae University Hospital (MMUH) commenced in 2011;
- Tallaght University Hospital (TUH) commenced in 2012;
- University Hospital Galway (UHG) commenced in 2013;
- University Hospital Limerick (UHL) commenced in 2018;
- Cork University Hospital/ Mercy University Hospital (CUH/MUH) commenced in 2018;
- Beaumont Hospital (BH) commenced in 2018.



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