



Dearadh agus Nuálaíocht Chliniciúil; Oifig an Príohifigeach Cliniciúil  
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens, D08 W2A8  
R: [clinicaldesign@hse.ie](mailto:clinicaldesign@hse.ie)

Clinical Design & Innovation; Office of the Chief Clinical Officer  
Dr Steevens' Hospital, D08 W2A8  
E: [clinicaldesign@hse.ie](mailto:clinicaldesign@hse.ie)

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Deputy Colm Burke, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**RE: PQ 51150/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health the measures that will be taken to improve access to the home dialysis pathway for those with chronic kidney disease in Ireland; if the provision of digital health solutions for home dialysis patients is being considered; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Burke,

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 Renal Office on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

There are two types of home dialysis therapy, Home Haemo-Dialysis (HHD) or Peritoneal Dialysis (PD). The benefits of home dialysis therapy are well documented, including:

- Patient empowerment to take control of their care;
- Improved patient quality of life by eliminating the need for hospital visits per year;
- Significantly reduce the risk of developing infection, including COVID-19 infection.

In 2021, to support the development and expansion of home dialysis therapy programme and in line with Sláintecare Goals:

- 5 additional Consultant Nephrologists were approved to expand the home dialysis therapy programme across the country;
- In September this year (2021), 11 Renal Units that provide home dialysis therapy received funding for a nurse for the remainder of 2021. This additional nursing support will facilitate improved pre-dialysis care, access to home dialysis therapy and accelerated transplant evaluation outpatient work-up care.

The National Renal Office (NRO) has set a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) for all Renal Units to increase the number of patients availing of home dialysis therapy from the current 12% to 20%. It is accepted that this will require additional investment to train and support the increased number of patients availing of home dialysis therapy. There is a need to look at the model of care delivery,

including considering providing assistance, both in terms of financial and nursing support directly to patients to increase home dialysis therapy uptake.

Renal service expansion and development will be based on clinical need, in line with priorities identified by the National Renal Services Clinical Programme and will encompass the key considerations of capacity, configuration and governance. The National Renal Services Clinical Programme provides strategic governance for approximately 450,000 dialysis treatments provided by the HSE in Hospital Dialysis Units, Home Dialysis Therapies and HSE Satellite Dialysis Units annually.

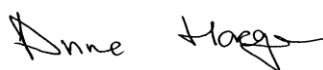
All patients on dialysis, including home dialysis therapy patients, are monitored by the National Digital Health Platform known as Kidney Disease Clinical Patient Management System (KDCPMS), which has been installed in all HSE Renal Units and HSE-contracted Satellite Dialysis Units.

In addition, home dialysis therapy patients have limited remote monitoring into the parent renal hospital, provided by the Kidney Disease Clinical Patient Management System (KDCPMS) and a Peritoneal Dialysis specific “Sharesource” IT system.

The HSE has provided funding to develop patient-centred smartphone apps (used in the pre-dialysis setting) and a Transplant App. However, significant investment will be required to bring these initiatives to a full digital health solution.

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**