



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

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

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

RE: PQ 51151/21

To ask the Minister for Health the measures that are currently in place to elevate the importance of chronic kidney disease in the context of long-term conditions; 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.

Approximately 10% of the adult population (450,000 people) suffer from some form of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD). The National Renal Office (NRO) is engaging with stakeholders to raise the profile of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) as a long-term medical condition, requiring input of both primary and secondary care services.

The National Renal Office (NRO) is in the final stages of developing a "Medication Sick Day Guidance" for patients/ prescribers to highlight important issues in CKD medicine management. This programme will increase awareness of CKD and offer advice regarding steps to prevent medication-related kidney damage. National launch of this guide is planned for next year.

The NRO has engaged with the HSE Scheduled Care Transformation Programme (SCTP) to seek support in enabling strategies for the management of CKD that would facilitate interventions to slow the rate of kidney function decline, thereby reducing the need for kidney replacement therapy and reduce the high risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) associated with CKD.

The number of patients on renal replacement therapy in Ireland has grown by 30% over the past 10 years. Over 300,000 dialysis treatments (hospital and home-based) were delivered by the HSE in 2020.

The HSE and NRO has provided additional scheduled care haemodialysis activity within the public sector, by supporting new build dialysis units in Tallaght University Hospital (TUH) and Mater Misericordiae University Hospital (MMUH). Additional dialysis activity has been supported by a 10% increase in the number of patients availing of home dialysis therapy options.

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