

CC/ML/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie10th November 2021Mr Michael Lowry TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 51381/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients who are currently waiting for diagnosis and treatment in the neurology department of University Hospital Limerick since January 2019 to September 2021; the number of these patients who are on the waiting list for treatment are waiting longer than the national guidelines for same by county in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael Lowry

Dear Deputy Lowry,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your representation in relation to Neurology Services at UHL.

In 2021, UL Hospitals Group was approved for two additional Consultant Neurologist posts to help address the deficits within this service. The recruitment process to fill these posts is ongoing.

There are currently two specialist nurses working within our Neurology Services, it is important to note that these specialist nurses are supported by a total of nine nursing staff, providing services across a range of specialties including:

- Parkinson's (two Clinical Nurse Specialists [CNS] and one Clinical Nurse Manager [CNM2]);
- Epilepsy (one CNS and one Staff Nurse)
- Multiple Sclerosis (one CNS);
- Stroke Service (one Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP); one CNS and one CNM2.)

In addition, our neurology service works with the designated Stroke/Neurology ward in UHL, where all staff are trained to care for neurology patients in a multidisciplinary approach that also incorporates Allied Health (physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech and language therapy).

UL Hospitals Group recently conducted a gap analysis review of our Neurology Services in line with the Model of Care outlined by the National Clinical Programme for Neurology. UL Hospitals Group has identified the need for a number of additional resources within our Neurology Services to bring it in line with the model of care outlined by the National Clinical Programme of Neurology.

Of note, our gap analysis identified the need for five additional Neurology Consultants, seven additional Advanced Nurse Practitioners and five additional Clinical Nurse Specialists. UL Hospitals Group is committed to working with the estimates process to develop this service over a number of years in line with population health data and consistent with best practice.

Please see below data in relation to the number of patients who are currently on the neurology outpatient waiting list at University Hospital Limerick.

Area of Residence	0-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	12-15 Months	15-18 Months	18-21 Months	21-24 Months	24-36 Months	36-48 Months	48+ Months	Total
Clare	64	53	57	68	39	41	33	41	115	63	102	676
Cork (City)						1	1			1		3
Cork (County)	1		6	5	1		2	3	8	1	5	32
Donegal											1	1
Galway (County)		1					1		2			4
Kerry	2					1	1	3	6		1	14
Laois		1	1	1					1	1		6
Leitrim									1			1
Limerick (city)	66	62	49	71	49	32	44	46	145	66	137	767
Limerick (county)	68	54	59	56	34	43	29	36	102	62	85	628
Mayo		1										1
North Dublin City & County		1			1		1		1		1	5
Offaly	1	1	2	1	2			2		2	3	14
Sligo									1			1
South Dublin City & County			1									1
Tipperary (North)	50	34	40	39	34	27	25	16	60	46	62	433
Tipperary (South)	3	2	1	3	6	2	1	2	7	5	6	38
Waterford (City)			1	1								2
Wexford	1											1
Total	256	210	217	245	166	147	138	149	449	248	403	2628

Developing our Neurology Services is a core focus for UL Hospitals Group and we are committed to improving this service for our patients.

I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group