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Deputy Denis Naughten, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 42535/21

To ask the Minister for Health the hospitals which had a TRASNA telemedicine stroke machine installed; the number of times the equipment was used in the past 12 months in each hospital; the corresponding figure for use in stroke diagnostics; the plans if any to replace the equipment; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Naughten,

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 Clinical Programme for Stroke on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Telemedicine for stroke was introduced as a national service in 2012, following a successful pilot project, led by Tallaght University Hospital (TUH) in the Dublin Mid-Leinster Hospital Group, demonstrating both feasibility and increased rates of acute stroke treatment with thrombolysis, 2010-2012.

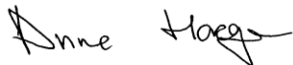
Telemedicine in stroke in general and the TRASNA programme in Ireland has undergone a number of upgrades and revisions to ensure optimal data security and in response to the changing nature of acute stroke treatment, a more widespread installation of the national imaging system (NIMIS), specialised stroke mobile apps to aid acute decision making in stroke and quality improvement (QI) programmes in acute stroke, which have led to a general upskilling of our emergency response to stroke.

In 2020, TRASNA systems have been operational in Naas General Hospital, Tallaght University Hospital, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and Cavan General Hospital and, more recently, have been installed in Kilkenny General Hospital. The system is available to every hospital dealing with acute stroke on request.

The system has recently been upgraded following the ransomware attack on the health service. Data regarding use of the TRASNA system in 2021 will be available at the end of the year, though this is likely to show reduced activity as a result of the impact of the ransomware attack, which necessitated a temporary reconfiguration of our acute care pathways for stroke in a number of instances e.g. the temporary bypass of acute stroke patients from Naas to Tallaght University Hospital (TUH).

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