



19.12.2022

Deputy Paul Murphy,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

**PQ 59930/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the role that the geriatricians on the Covid-19 response teams played in engagement with nursing homes which had outbreaks and in the meetings with specific homes, who made decisions on medication and transfer to hospital for residents. -**

In response to the Covid-19 Pandemic and following advice from the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE), Covid Response Teams (CRT's) were stood up under the supervision of the Area Crisis Management Teams (ACMT's) in March 2020. Their purpose was and to support Residential Care Facilities in the prevention, identification and management of Covid-19 outbreaks in line with Public Health guidance.

CRT leads were identified by each CHO area and team membership was populated from within existing resources. CRT's developed professional relationships with Public Health specialists rather than geriatricians as their focus was related to IPC management.

Decisions in relation to clinical management inclusive of oversight of medication therapies and the possible transfer of residents to an alternative Healthcare facility, if required, is made by the Medical Officer/GP in conjunction with Nursing Home staff, the relevant residents and possibly in consultation with a geriatrician at the receiving facility.

Yours sincerely,

**Patricia Whelehan,  
Assistant National Director - Community Operations,  
Services for Older People.**