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**PQ36045/22: To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans to establish an inter-disciplinary clinic for persons who have the breast cancer gene, consisting at least of an oncologist, gynaecologist and plastic surgeon; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Carroll MacNeill,

The HSE has established a National Genetic and Genomic Steering Group, tasked with developing a National Genetic and Genomic Strategy and implementation plan for Ireland. The inaugural meeting of the Steering Group was held in May 2022. The Steering Group is chaired by Dr Mark Bale, former Genomics Advisor to the UK Department of Health, supported by the HSE's Chief Clinical Officer. The group includes representatives from a range of clinical specialties in Ireland (including representatives from the National Cancer Control Programme), academic and patient representatives and international experts in the area of genetics and genomics. It will provide a model for coordination and integration between clinicians, and review the needs for a centralised national body with responsibility for genetic services and the establishment of future services, with appropriate governance structures, policies, procedure, and protocols. The strategy will define what actions and resources are needed, including funding and staffing levels, allowing the HSE to develop a genomic service for Ireland that will improve health outcomes, drive down the cost of care and fuel scientific innovation and discovery.

The National Genetic and Genomic Strategy for Ireland and implementation plan will be published before the end of 2022. For further information see:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/media/pressrel/hse-initiates-a-national-genetics-and-genomics-strategy-for-ireland.html#:~:text=Press%20Releases->

[,HSE%20initiates%20a%20National%20Genetics%20and%20Genomics%20Strategy%20for%20Ireland,Genetic%20and%20Genomic%20Steering%20Group](#)

People with a BRCA gene alteration have an increased risk of developing cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancer. The HSE's National Cancer Control Programme is currently finalising a needs assessment for those with a BRCA gene alteration. This has been developed with a broad range of stakeholders, including representatives of those with a BRCA gene alteration. This has highlighted the need for well-coordinated, comprehensive care, to reduce the risk of cancer in this population and maximise their health and wellbeing. This work will be used to inform planning of and investment in the required services for this population.

The growing role of genetics in cancer control is well recognised and the development of a model of care for cancer genetics has been prioritised by the NCCP and will be aligned with the development of the National Genetics and Genomics Strategy.

Yours sincerely



Professor Risteárd Ó Laoide  
National Director  
National Cancer Control Programme

