



Rannán na nOspidéal Ghéarmhíochaine
Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan
An Ceantar Theas
An Bóthar Míleata
Cill Mhaighneann
Baile Átha Cliath 8

Acute Operations
Unit 4A, The Dargan Building
Heuston South Quarter
Military Road
Kilmainham
Dublin 8

5th July 2022

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 29488/22 - To ask the Minister for Health if he plans to take any measures to increase awareness of Addison's disease among medical and nursing staff; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question in relation to measures to increase awareness of Addison disease among medical and nursing staff which was forwarded to the HSE by the Department of Health for direct reply.

The HSE National Rare Diseases Office is currently leading out on the development of a number of care pathways for rare diseases. This project includes the development of a Primary Adrenal Insufficiency care pathway which includes Addison Disease. This pathway has been developed in collaboration with the lead clinical specialists at CHI Crumlin and Beaumont Hospitals and will be further developed with key multi-disciplinary stakeholders such as nursing and health and social care professionals. The care pathway outlines the evidence-based diagnostic and care guidelines for the condition and aims to be an educational, clinical and advocacy tool for health care professionals in Ireland to promote more timely diagnosis, integrated care and better patient outcomes for patients with the condition. The care pathway includes validated links to educational tools that bring awareness of Addison Disease for health care professionals.

Since January 2022, three centres of expertise have joined the European Reference Network (ERN) for Rare Endocrine disorders (ERN-Endo) including Addison Disease. For these centres of expertise and the healthcare professionals involved the network seeks to pool clinical expertise available across Europe and concentrate knowledge, resources and bringing awareness on rare and/or complex diseases. The day-to-day functioning of ERNs include a vast range of activities including development and provision of education and training curricula, communication, dissemination and awareness raising activities.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Dunne'.

Brian Dunne
General Manager, Acute Operations