



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

OFFICE OF THE CEO
SOUTH / SOUTH WEST HOSPITAL GROUP
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6th July 2022.

Deputy Ivana Bacik,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin

PQ Ref 32284/22

*** To ask the Minister for Health if funding will be provided for a dedicated Parkinson's nurse to support patients in the west Waterford south Tipperary area; the policy of his Department on this issue; the supports that the HSE provides to patients diagnosed with Parkinson's disease; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

- Ivana Bacik

Dear Deputy Bacik,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. We have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Tipperary University Hospital (TippUH) provides acute hospital services to the West Waterford South Tipperary area, and has no dedicated on-site Neurology specialist service for chronic neurological conditions, including Parkinson's disease, but excluding Stroke Services. With no dedicated service, the hospital relies on TippUH Consultant Physicians and tertiary referral centres, including Cork University Hospital (CUH) and Beaumont Hospital for provision of dedicated neurology services.

The South/South West Hospital Group (SSWHG) recognise the importance of providing a dedicated, responsive and person centred Neurology service in the region to meet the needs of the population, provide best patient outcomes, and align with recommendations from the National Clinical Programme for Neurology services and teamwork across community services.


"The overarching aim of the neurology programme is that the patients should have equitable access to a high quality responsive service which provides accurate diagnosis and appropriate management for all neurological conditions".

To address the neurology service gap, a business case for a dedicated Neurology services in TippUH was set out and submitted in consultation with the CUH Consultant Neurology Lead to the SSWHG for support. The business case is currently under review in line with the National Clinical Programme for Neurology services.

The business proposal sets out Neurology service requirement(s) including a visiting Consultant Neurologist from CUH to provide services to outpatient referrals, Emergency Department attendances and inpatient consultations, as appropriate. The dedicated neurology service must be supported by a Clinical Nurse Specialist who would work closely with the Consultant Neurologist, but would be based in TippUH. Administration support would also be required to facilitate the outpatient referral process.

I trust this is of assistance to you, however should you have any further questions that require clarification(s), please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerry O'Dwyer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Mr. Gerry O' Dwyer
CEO,
South/South West Hospital Group
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