



Dearadh agus Nuálaíocht Chliniciúil; Oifig an Príohoifigeach Cliniciúil
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18th October, 2022

Deputy Seán Canney, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 51146/22

To ask the Minister for Health the plans that he is putting in place to deliver the specialist neurology required to meet the current demand; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Canney,

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 Neurology (NCPN) on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Nurse specialists play a significant role in the triaging, assessment, treatment and ongoing support of the neurological patient. The National Clinical Programme for Neurology (NCPN) recognises that skilled and highly trained nursing staff add value to neurological services. NCPN endorses the expansion of the nursing workforce dedicated to Neurology and in line with the Neurology Model of Care (2016) and Sláintecare.

NCPN submitted new service development (NSD) estimate bids in 2021 for additional clinical nurse specialists. From these submissions, additional nurse specialist posts have been appointed and mainstreamed for Headache and Epilepsy services. These posts were initially supported and funded through a Sláintecare Integration Fund pilot initiative.

NCPN recognises that additional investment is required in various speciality areas of neurology. NCPN plans to incrementally make submissions for funding over the next number of years, to increase the nursing workforce in neurology centres nationally, in speciality areas such as Huntington's Disease, Movement Disorders, Parkinson Disease and Multiple Sclerosis, among others.

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