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Deputy Neasa Hourigan TD

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

PQ 47466/22

To ask the Minister for Health his plans to appoint additional nurse specialists across adult neurology services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Response:

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 and 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 estimates in 2021 for additional clinical nurse specialists. From these submissions, additional nurse specialist posts have

been appointed and mainstreamed for Headache and Epilepsy. These posts were initially supported and funded through the Sláintecare Integration Fund pilot. NPCN recognise that additional investment is required in various speciality areas of Neurology, so NCPN plans to incrementally make submissions for funding over the next number of years in line with Hub and Spoke model for Neurology, to increase the nursing workforce in Neurology centres nationally, in speciality areas such as Huntington Disease; Movement Disorders; Parkinson Disease and Multiple Sclerosis among others.

A further submission was made this year for additional posts to continue pathway development and implementation and will be considered as part of the 2023 estimates process.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,



Emma Benton

General Manager

Acute Operations