



Leas Stuirtheóir Náisiúnta,
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5th May, 2023,

Deputy Carol Nolan,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Nolan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ 17042/23

To ask the Minister for Health if he will clarify the entitlements that exist for elderly dementia patients living at home; if such entitlement differs around the country (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Details supplied: As I understand it, HSE midlands allows for a max14 hrs per week home care while Dublin allows for up to 21 hours home care per week for dementia patients'

The National Dementia Strategy was published in December 2014 and aims to improve dementia care so that people with dementia can live well for as long as possible, and can access services and supports in an equitable and timely manner. In order for people with dementia to live in their own communities, it requires both a medical and a societal response. A combination of formal and informal supports offers the best opportunity to produce the optimal outcome for the person with dementia and their carer.

The Dementia Model of Care is due to be published on May 31st, 2023 and builds upon the work of the National Dementia Strategy (2014), the HSE Corporate Plan 2021 - 2024 and Sláintecare (2020–2023). The aim of the Dementia Model of Care is to bring together best practice in relation to earlier recognition and intervention for those living with dementia as well as their support networks. The Dementia Model of Care offers in-depth guidance which is presented across a series of targets and practice recommendations to advance the treatment, care and support for the thousands of people living with dementia in Ireland. As per the Dementia Model of Care, all citizens who present with a known or suspected diagnosis of dementia are entitled to comprehensive assessment, treatment and post diagnostic supports, irrespective of age, location or financial status.

The Home Support Service is funded by Government to deliver a volume of service each year as approved in the HSE National Service Plan. It is a non-statutory service and access to the current service is based on an assessment of the person's specific needs by the HSE and having regard to the available resources and the competing demands for the service. Despite the significant level of service provision, the demand for Home Support, and its importance as an alternative service to long stay care, has grown considerably over the past number of years. Similarly, the type of Home Support that is now required to meet the needs of the population is a more person-centred personal care model. The HSE is committed to supporting older people with Dementia to live at home for as long as possible.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Janette Dwyer".

Janette Dwyer
Assistant National Director,
Services for Older People, Change & Innovation