



**Leas Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta: Pleanáil Athraithe agus Seachadadh -
Seirbhísí Míchumais agus Meabhairshláinte.**

**Assistant National Director: Change Planning and Delivery –
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23rd January 2023

Deputy Cian O'Callaghan,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: cian.ocallaghan@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

The Health Service Executive 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: 1285/23

To ask the Minister for Health the current status of the new regional health areas which determine the introduction of community neurorehabilitation in CHO9; when these regional health areas that are expected to be implemented; the action he will take to ensure all CHO areas will receive community neurorehabilitation teams once the RHAs are finalised; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

The Programme for Government – 'Our Shared Future' - includes a commitment for advancing neuro-rehabilitation services in the community. The Health Service Executive is leading on the implementation framework in respect of the recommendations of the National Policy and Strategy for the provision of Neuro-Rehabilitation Services in Ireland 2011-2015.

The Neuro-Rehabilitation Strategy Implementation Framework (IF) was launched in February 2019. The overarching aim of the Strategy is the development of neuro-rehabilitation services to improve patient outcomes by providing safe, high quality, person-centred neuro-rehabilitation at the lowest appropriate level of complexity. This must be integrated across the care pathway, and provided as close to home as possible or in specialist centres where necessary. These services are to be configured into population based managed clinical rehabilitation networks (MCRNs). The overarching aim is the development of population based MCRN's around the country.

In order to test the feasibility of this new MCRN model in the Irish context, a decision was made by the Neuro-Rehab Steering Group to run two demonstrator projects within CHO6 and CHO7 to assess the feasibility of the model to inform national roll-out. The two community neuro-rehab teams within



CHO6 and CHO7 are in the recruitment phase and the plan moving forward, is to roll out these services on a national basis.

There is currently no CNRT operational within CHO 9, however moving forward with the strategy, the plan will be to create a population-based Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Team within this CHO, or RHA following the implementation of the new Regional Health Areas within Slaintecare. Preparatory work is ongoing in relation to the implementation of the Regional Health Authorities.

Yours Sincerely,



**Mr Brian J Higgins,
Assistant National Director,
Change Planning and Delivery,
Disability and Mental Health Services**

