



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

**Assistant National Director: Change Planning and Delivery –  
Disability and Mental Health Services.**

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19<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Deputy Johnny Guirke,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [johnny.guirke@oireachtas.ie](mailto:johnny.guirke@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Guirke,

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: 63620/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health when the promised community neuro-rehabilitation teams for each CHO area, currently only two out of nine initiated, which will allow persons living with acquired conditions such as stroke and brain injury to leave hospitals more quickly to continue their recovery at home, reducing the need for longer term care, will be in place, particularly in CHO8; 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 8 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.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Higgins', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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