



Dearadh agus Nuálaíocht Chliniciúil; Oifig an Príohoifigeach Cliniciúil
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Deputy John Lahart, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 32615/23

To ask the Minister for Health to list the hospitals that provide a clinical psychology service to heart failure patients, those treating heart failure that have no dedicated service for these patients; to set out his plans to improve these services; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Lahart,

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 Heart Programme (NHP) on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

With respect to access to psychology supports for heart failure patients nationally, an acute heart failure service survey conducted in 2018 identified one heart failure unit who reported having a dedicated psychologist as part of the multidisciplinary team (MDT) for heart failure i.e. St Vincent's/ St Michael's Heart Failure service.

The HSE's National Heart Programme's (NHP) Heart Failure Model of Care (MoC) 2021 advises a psychologist as a one of the key community staff requirements to support General Practitioners (GPs) in the treatment of heart failure. The MoC also recommends that access to psychological support should be available via the hospital multidisciplinary team. A recent audit (Quarter 1, 2023) at St Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH) Heart Failure Unit found that approximately 20% of patients with heart failure require psychological support

Funding has been made available to provide a psychologist for 1 day per week (for two years) as part of cardiac rehabilitation teams in the 30 new Specialist Chronic Disease Community Ambulatory Care Hubs being established as part of the Enhanced Community Care Programme (ECCP). This service will include the treatment of heart failure patients.

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