



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

**RE: PQ 32696/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of hospitals that provide a clinical psychology service to heart failure patients; the proportion of patients identified as requiring clinical psychology who receive the service in each of these hospitals; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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