



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

RE: PQ 30322/23

To ask the Minister for Health if there are any plans to provide specialised Parkinson nurse specialists into the communities to work alongside community nurses.

Dear Deputy Burke,

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 Clinical Programme for Neurology (NCPN) on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

The National Clinical Programme for Neurology (NCPN) recognises the importance of specialist nurses in management of chronic neurological conditions. The National Clinical Programme for Neurology (NCPN) recognises that skilled and highly trained staff add value to neurological services and NCPN endorses the expansion of the workforce dedicated to neurology and in line with the HSE's Neurology Model of Care (2016) and Sláintecare.

In 2023, the NCPN successfully worked with the Neurological Alliance of Ireland (NAI) to advocate for additional specialist nurses in neurological disability. In April 2023, the HSE's Acute Hospitals Division sanctioned the establishment of 21 new specialist nursing posts in Neurology, including 6 additional specialist nurses in Parkinson's disease.

In relation to these posts announced for 2023, the letters of allocation and primary notifications for the 21 posts were issued to the Hospital Groups in May and the recruitment process is underway to fill these posts. These posts will be based at regional neurology centres across the country and will link with community services.

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