



Deputy Steven Matthews
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

14th March 2023

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse
Sláinte
Lána an Mhuilinn
Baile Phámar
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National Renal Office
Clinical Design and Innovation
Health Service Executive
Mill Lane
Palmerstown
Dublin 20

PQ10777/23 To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding the number of persons from County Wicklow currently undergoing dialysis treatment; if any review is on-going into the potential to offer this treatment in a primary care setting; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Response:

The National Renal Office monitors closely the number of patients with End-stage Renal Failure (also known as End-stage Kidney Disease ESKD) receiving treatment in Ireland. This is monitored through a national IT system called Kidney Disease Patient Management System (KDCPMS or Emed) in all renal units. Patients with ESKD are treated in renal units either by dialysis or kidney transplantation.

In relation to the first part of your query, analysis of the National KDCPMS data set indicates that currently 75 patients ordinarily resident in County Wicklow are receiving in centre haemodialysis treatment. This is provided in either a Hospital Renal unit located in St Vincent's University Hospital, Tallaght University Hospital or in one of the 2 HSE contracted satellite units in Beacon Renal Tallaght or Beacon Renal Sandyford. In addition, 8 residents of Co Wicklow carry out dialysis in their own homes.

It is not standard medical practice to provide haemodialysis treatment in a Primary care setting. Patients treated by dialysis require an integrated multi-professional support network. This support network comprises of medical practitioners, nurses, renal dieticians and additional allied health professionals which would not be available to patients in a primary care setting. There is also a requirement for medical engineers & technicians to supervise the haemodialysis machines and the dialysis water treatment plant.

The National Renal Office analyse the demand for dialysis services on a continuous basis nationally. If alternative models of delivering haemodialysis care are developed, they will be considered in the future taking into consideration the patient needs, clinical risk and appropriate services in place.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

Prof George Mellotte
National Clinical Lead for Renal Services
National Renal Office

