



8th June 2023

Deputy Catherine Murphy
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 20438/23 To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a schedule of neurology nurse specialists by location in the State; and his plans to engage with the HSE with a view to the provision of increased capacity and resourcing in this specialist area. - Catherine Murphy

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Six of the Hospital Groups have provided data in response to this PQ, please see below;

ULHG

The nursing staff WTE for the Neurology Department in UHL is 7.5 WTE.

Please see below WTE allocated to Epilepsy, Parkinson's, Stroke and Multiple Sclerosis;

- CNS Epilepsy x 2 WTE
- CNS/CNM2 Parkinson's X 2.5 WTE
- CNS/CNM2 Stroke x 2 WTE
- CNM2 Multiple Sclerosis X 1 WTE

RCSIHG

Hospital Site	Nursing WTE in Neurology
Beaumont	50.62
Cavan & Monaghan	0.00
Connolly	0.00
OLOL & LCH	0.00
Rotunda	0.00
Total	50.62



Saolta	
Saolta Neurology Specialist Nurses	
Site	WTE
MUH	No Neurology service
PUH	No Neurology service
RUH	No Neurology service
LUH	No Neurology service
SUH	0.85
GUH	12* (6 of these posts were recently approved)

SSWHG		
Hospital		
Bantry General Hospital	0	N/A
Cork University Hospital	7	<p>Clinical Nurse Specialist posts currently in the Neurology service in CUH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Clinical Nurse Specialist x 2 WTE to support patients with Multiple Sclerosis · Clinical Nurse Specialist x 1 WTE to support patients with Parkinsons · Advanced Nurse Practitioner x 1 WTE for Neurology Service · Candidate Advanced Practitioner x 2 WTE for Neurology Service · Clinical Nurse Specialist x 1 WTE for Headache Pathway
Mercy University Hospital		
South Infirmary/Victoria Hospital	0	
University Hospital Kerry	0	
University Hospital Waterford	1	· CNS Neurology post x 1WTE
Mallow General Hospital	0	N/A
Tipperary University Hospital	0	N/A



IEHG

St Vincent's University Hospital has an allocation of 7 WTE Neurology Nursing posts (different disciplines in the Neurology specialty).

DMHG

Hospital Name	WTE Nursing Staff Based in Neurology Dept.
Naas General Hospital	0.5
St James Hospital	10
Tallaght University Hospital	TUH have 10 WTE approved neurology nursing posts (of which 6 WTE were awarded this year). 4.5 WTE are currently in post. We are progressing with recruiting for the vacant posts.

In relation to the second part of your PQ which asks about **plans to engage with the HSE with a view to the provision of increased capacity and resourcing in this specialist area**, the National Clinical Lead of the Neurology Programme has advised of the following;

The National Clinical Leads Programme in Neurology is working closely with the HSE to develop services across the country, aligned with the aspirations of SlainteCare. Specifically, the programme has worked with the National Pathways programme to enhance access for those with neurological conditions, with additional resourcing in 2023 for Headache, Epilepsy and Motor Neuron Disease. Additional pathways are currently in development.

The programme is also working closely with the National Neurorehabilitation Programme to improve rehabilitation services, and the National Dementia Strategy for those with cognitive and behavioural decline.

The Programme envisages a "Hub and Spoke" model of care for those with neurological disability, and is seeking to develop services across 10 Neurology sites, such that each Neurology Centre has full capacity to deliver integrated neurological care for the majority of those within their catchment area. For rare / complex neurological disorders, the Programme envisages the development of networked tertiary / quaternary centres of excellence, with appropriate links to regional centres and integration with community care services.

I trust the above is of assistance.

John Smith
Assistant National Director
Acute Operations