



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroibríochtaí

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Deputy Mark Ward
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

6th September 2023

PQ 37638/23 - To ask the Minister for Health to outline the reason no allocation of advanced nurse practitioners were allocated to neurology services in 2022 and 2023; if there are plans to allocate advanced nurse practitioners to neurology services going forward; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward

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 Clinical Programme for Neurology (NCPN) recognizes 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 Neurology Model of Care (2016) and Sláintecare.

The HSE submitted a proposal for additional posts to continue the development and implementation of new care pathways resulting in 5 additional nurse specialist posts been appointed and mainstreamed for Headache and Epilepsy in 2022. These posts were initially supported and funded through the Sláintecare Integration Fund pilot.

Subsequently, in 2023 funding has been allocated to further support the implementation of the modernised care pathways for Headache and Epilepsy. This is an additional 6 Clinical Nurse Specialist posts for headache and an Advanced Nurse Practitioner post for Epilepsy.

In May 2023, funding letters were issued to hospitals to recruit an additional 21 neurology nursing posts. These posts are at the Clinical Nurse Specialist and Advanced Nurse Practitioner grades and recruitment is ongoing at present.

The National Clinical Programme for Neurology working with the Irish Neurology Nurses Forum, have designed a new level 9 course in specialist neurology nursing and it is at an advanced stage of implementation in collaboration with Trinity College Dublin (TCD) school of Nursing and the Academic Unit of Neurology TCD. It is anticipated to enroll the first students in September 2024. This level of course will support nurses wishing to ascertain the requirements to advance into ANP roles.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Emma Benton".

**Emma Benton,
General Manager,
Acute Operations**