



14 May 2025

Deputy Shónagh Ní Raghallaigh, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**RE: PQ 18600/25**

**To ask the Minister for Health the supports that are in place for those with vasculitis; and if she or her Department will consider additional funding for research**

Dear Deputy Ní Raghallaigh

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 Rheumatology (NCPR) on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Vasculitis represents a clinically heterogeneous group of diseases of multifactorial aetiology characterised by inflammation of either large-sized vessels (e.g. giant-cell arteritis; takayasu arteritis), medium-sized vessels (e.g. polyarteritis nodosa; kawasaki disease), or small-sized vessels (e.g. granulomatosis with polyangiitis; microscopic polyangiitis; immunoglobulin A vasculitis; cutaneous leukocytoclastic angiitis).

Vasculitis occurs at any age, may be acute or chronic and manifests with general symptoms such as fever, weight loss and fatigue, as well as more specific clinical signs depending on the type of vessels and organs affected. The degree of severity is variable, ranging from life or sight threatening disease (e.g. Behçet Disease) to relatively minor skin disease.

In Ireland, diagnosis and care is generally led by Rheumatology, Nephrology and Immunology clinical teams. Further multidisciplinary specialty care is available, when appropriate, through the specialties of Ophthalmology, Nephrology, Ear-Nose-Throat (ENT) and Respiratory Medicine among others. Patients may also be referred to additional hospital-based or community-based services and supports including, but not limited to physiotherapy, occupational therapy, dietetics, psychology or pain management programmes.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) continuously aims to deliver care based on evidence-informed best practice, patient-centred care and continuous improvement. HSE Action Plan for Health Research 2019–2029<sup>1</sup> references the importance of research to generate critical evidence to inform decision making and ensures that our practices are evidence-based. This action plan is an important step towards creating a supportive and enabling environment for research and to ensure that the health service can benefit from the talent of our research active staff.

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

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**Anne Horgan**  
General Manager

#### References

1. <https://hseresearch.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/10-Year-Action-Plan.pdf>