



14 May 2025

Deputy Michael Cahill, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 19133/25

To ask the Minister for Health her plans to provide additional rehabilitation beds and services for stroke patients from County Kerry and throughout the country; her views on whether there are major shortcomings in this area; and if she will make a statement on the matter

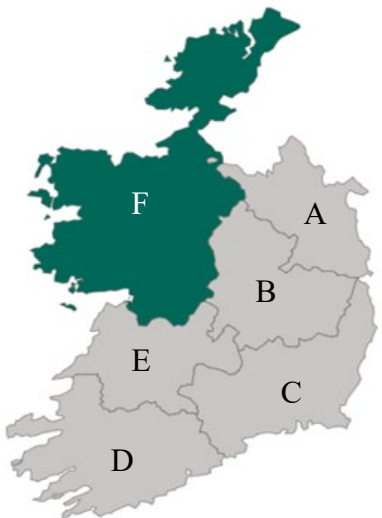
Dear Deputy Cahill,

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 Advisor and Group Lead for Older Persons (NCAGL OP) and National Clinical Programme (NCP) for Stroke on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Stroke services in the Kerry region are primarily served by the acute stroke service at University Hospital Kerry (UHK) in Tralee. This 4 bedded acute stroke unit has additional access to twelve associated rehabilitation beds shared with geriatric medicine. As part of new service developments 2025, funding was allocated for a senior physiotherapist and senior medical social worker to this acute stroke unit.

University Hospital Kerry (UHK) has recently commissioned an all-age early supported discharge team shared with the integrated care programme for older people (ICPOP) that facilitates home stroke rehabilitation within a 30 km radius. Approximately 50 stroke patients were discharged through this pathway in 2024. A neuro-rehabilitation multidisciplinary team and community based service has also recently been commissioned for Kerry.

Below is a table as published through the HSE's rehabilitation mapping project as outlined in the HSE's Post-Acute Inpatient Rehabilitation Service Provision Report: A National Overview of HSE Funded Services (2024)^{1, 2}. This mapping project, conducted in 2023, was commissioned to gain an objective understanding of the capacity and capability of existing post-acute inpatient rehabilitation services in Ireland.

Health Region	Number of rehabilitation beds	Average number of beds per 100,000 population	
National Average	206	26	
HSE Dublin & North East	370	31.3	
HSE Dublin & Midlands	219	20.3	
HSE Dublin & South East (Excluding National Tertiary Centre)	392 280	40.4 28.8	
HSE South West	163	22.1	
HSE Mid-West	84	20.7	
HSE West & North West	108	14.2	
Total	1,336		

The project's scope explored post-acute adult inpatient services, funded by the HSE and providing dedicated multidisciplinary rehabilitation. The survey identified a total of 1,336 beds in Ireland providing post-acute inpatient rehabilitation across acute and community settings.

To strategically build integrated rehabilitation services and achieve equitable and timely access to quality services for all patient populations, including those with multiple and complex rehabilitation needs, the report lists five recommendations for consideration. One such recommendation is that population modelling should be undertaken, to identify patient epidemiology and the demand for post-acute rehabilitation.

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

References

1. <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/rehabilitation-medicine/resources/hse-rehabilitation-mapping-report-summary.pdf>
2. <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/rehabilitation-medicine/resources/hse-rehabilitation-mapping-report.pdf>