



24 July 2025

Deputy Darren O'Rourke, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 36615/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of neurology nurse specialists in place; and the number by which she is going to increase this.

Dear Deputy O'Rourke,

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 Neurology (NCPN) on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

The National Clinical Programme for Neurology (NCPN) Model of Care¹ by design weighs heavily on nursing workforce to respond to the chronicity of neurological conditions and navigate patients through primary, secondary and tertiary care for optimal patient outcomes. A key focus is on building capacity within neurology clinics and developing nursing networks with nurse-led outpatient and outreach clinics. These principles align with the strategic objectives set out by the Department of Health (DoH) Policy on Graduate, Specialist and Advanced Nursing Practice².

In Ireland, numbers of neurology nurse specialists are below recommended national and international guidance. The HSE's Office of Nursing and Midwifery Director (ONMSD) records for the development of Advanced Nurse Practitioner roles indicate that:

- There are 33.08 WTE Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs) employed by 18 health service providers across the country in the areas of Neurology (parkinson's, epilepsy, motor neuron disease, multiple sclerosis, neuro degenerative disease, neuromuscular, neuro-disability, neurosurgery, and stroke);
- There are 43 WTE Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) employed by 14 health service providers across the county in areas of Neurology - such as headaches, paediatric neurology, children's neuro-disability, epilepsy, epilepsy surgery, multiple sclerosis, migraine, neuro muscular, parkinson's, neuro-urology, neuro oncology, neuro pre-op, motor neuron disease, deep brain stimulation, EEG, complex tone, children's neurological life limiting conditions and spina bifida.

NSD 2025 allocated funding for 22 additional neurology nurses. Commissioning letters were issued in Q2 2025 and the recruitment process is in progress.

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/services/publications/clinical-strategy-and-programmes/neurology-model-of-care.pdf>
2. <https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/a-policy-on-the-development-of-graduate-to-advanced-nursing-and-midwife-practice.pdf>