



30 June 2025

Deputy Pádraig Rice, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 25276/25

To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the €1 million funding allocated to pulmonary fibrosis, including the specific line items detailed in the 2025 HSE National Service Plan (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Details supplied:

In October 2024, Minister Donnelly allocated €1m in funding for pulmonary fibrosis - €500,000 in Budget 2025 and a further €500,000 in 2026. The allocated funding appeared as a line item in the 2025 HSE National Service Plan. The Irish Lung Fibrosis Association (ILFA) met with the HSE and the Department of Health in January 2025 to determine the allocation of funding. It was agreed in that meeting that the funding would go toward a pulmonary rehabilitation pilot (€275,000), a disease registry (€150,000), and a Section 39 grant for ILFA to increase its service capacity for patients (€75,000). The HSE stated that further discussions and the work progressing would require the Clinical Care Pathway Advisor to be situated in post.

Dear Deputy Rice,

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 Director for Integrated Care and National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead for Chronic Disease (NCAGL CD) on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

The funding allocated to lung fibrosis was €0.5 million for 2025 under the 2025 HSE National Service Plan.

The HSE's National Clinical Director for Integrated Care has requested a scoping exercise be undertaken to review the evidence and assess the needs of the population living with pulmonary fibrosis/interstitial lung disease (ILD) to determine how and where best their care provision needs are met. Once the needs of this population are determined, the next step in the process will be to identify the resources required to design and develop a work programme, to address and meet these needs and to identify the requirements needed to implement a suitable care pathway for this patient cohort. This will be determined in tandem with making the best use of existing and planned resources in the acute and community settings to support this cohort of service users.

I can confirm that a Clinical Advisor (CA) and Programme Manager have now commenced in post to support the National Clinical Programme (NCP) Respiratory to scope out the evidence and health needs of individuals living with interstitial lung disease (ILD). Work has begun on the scoping exercise to review the evidence and assess the needs of the population living with pulmonary fibrosis/ILD and to determine how and where best their care delivery needs are met. This work will also include engaging with ILFA regarding their priorities.

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