



3rd February 2022

Deputy John Brady,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 2754/22

To ask the Minister for Health if there is a 24/7 palliative care service in CHO6 Wicklow and CHO7 west Wicklow; the level of care there is for families that are caring for their loved ones at home; and if he will make a statement on the matter.-John Brady

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.


In-patient palliative care is available 24/7 from St Brigid's Hospice, Curragh. Palliative care in the community involves collaborative and integrated care from a team of health and social care professionals. This integrated care team includes the patient's GP, public health nurse, the community palliative care team from St. Brigid's Hospice if clinically appropriate, the primary care health and social care professionals and a homecare package.

A person with cancer's end of life care in the community may include night nursing support from the Irish Cancer Society (ICS) dependent on nurse availability. Nursing for Night Care is available to persons with non-cancer diagnoses if the local specialist palliative care team are involved in the person's care. Nurses for Night Care is kindly supported by the Irish Hospice Foundation via the Irish Cancer Society Night Nursing Service. Out of hours medical care is available via the GP or the GP's deputising service.

Patients living at home in West Wicklow who are in receipt of specialist palliative care are assessed and supported with in-person visits, phone calls, outpatient appointments and video visits as clinically appropriate. Weekend assessments of patients are based on clinical need. The aim is to provide a network of effective, compassionate support for the person and his or her loved one at a challenging time.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but if you have any queries or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,


Mary O'Kelly
Head of Service, Primary Care
Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare