



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroibríochtaí

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Deputy Michael Healy-Rae
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

29th December 2023

PQ 50037/23 - To ask the Minister for Health if support will be provided to an organisation (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael Healy-Rae

Details Supplied: the Irish Kidney Association. Dear Minister, Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) affects 1 in 10 people. CKD leads to premature death. Given the number of CKD cases identified through the OCF components of the CDM programme, screening for and treatment of CKD should be extended to all chronic disease programmes. Will this happen? Will a dedicated ward and operating theatre be created for faster and more efficient organ transplants? Will a funding of 281,300 euros be provided to allow expansion of annual potential donor audit to support improved identification of possible organ donations and more targeted public awareness campaigns?

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Acute Operations contacted the Chief Clinical Officer (CCO) Office and Organ Donation Transplant Ireland (ODTI) for information to respond to your question. HSE National Office for Trauma Services, which advised as follows:

Regarding the extension of screening programmes, the CCO Office advised as follows:

The National Screening Advisory Committee (NSAC) is an independent advisory committee, which advises the Minister and Department of Health on all new proposals for population-based screening programmes and revisions to existing programmes.

The Committee plays a significant strategic role in the development and consideration of population-based screening programmes in Ireland. Should the NSAC recommend the extension of a screening programme the HSE would operationalise it.

Regarding the other elements raised in your question, the ODTI have advised:

Will a dedicated ward and operating theatre be created for faster and more efficient organ transplants?

There is an ongoing national strategic planning process within the ODTI service, inclusive of appropriate governance structures to support effective service delivery in sites.

Will a funding of 281,300 euros be provided to allow expansion of annual potential donor audit to support improved identification of possible organ donations and more targeted public awareness campaigns?

The national potential donor audit is planned to be rolled out on a phased basis across ICU and emergency departments nationally.

The HSE has an ongoing public awareness campaign highlighting the importance of organ donation, its impact on donor recipients, the families of organ donors and highlighting the importance of “having the conversation” regarding organ donation.

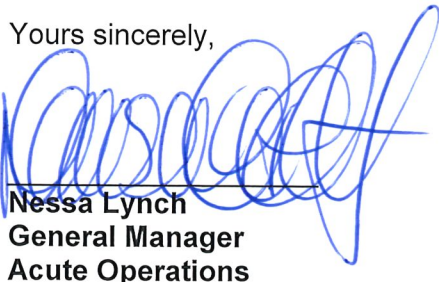
The current online awareness campaign can be accessed via:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/acute-hospitals-division/organ-donation-transplant-ireland/>

Organ donation awareness will continue next year and will be planned in line with the progress of the Human Tissue Bill through the legislative process. Following the Opt-Out Register going live, a specific campaign aiming to raise awareness on its introduction will commence to support it and illustrate what the new changes introduced mean for the public.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Nessa Lynch
General Manager
Acute Operations