



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Deputy Farrell
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse
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National Renal Office
Clinical Innovation and Design
Health Service Executive
Mill Lane
Palmerstown
Dublin 20

25th May 2020

PQ Question: 6422/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients in dialysis that have tested positive for Covid-19; if there have been deaths in dialysis units of patients that had tested positive for Covid-19; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Response:

We are all aware that Covid 19 is a new and evolving infection and that patients with pre-existing medical diseases are at higher risk of complications and death from this illness. Dialysis patients have been identified as being extremely vulnerable as they all have multiple pre-existing medical conditions.

Haemodialysis patients are at particular high risk of developing Covid 19, as they cannot self-isolate and must attend their hospital or satellite dialysis unit in person 3 times per week for treatment. Nationally units were advised to adapt their local policies and additional supports were provided to minimise the risk of contracting Covid 19

The reported incidence of Covid 19 among the haemodialysis patient population has risen slowly since March 2020. The National Renal Office is aware that as of the 25th May 2020, there were **89** dialysis patients reported as testing positive for Covid 19.

Sadly, **27** haemodialysis patients lost their lives as a result of Covid 19. No new Covid related deaths have been reported since 16th May 2020. There has been only one new case of Covid 19 infection in a dialysis patient reported to the NRO since 8th May.

The prevalence of Covid 19 infection in dialysis patients in Ireland is similar to that reported internationally, and lower than the UK. Clinical outcome and the measured mortality in Irish patients is comparable to that reported by the European Renal Registry.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

Prof George Mellotte
National Clinical Lead for Renal Services
National Renal Office

