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17th November 2023

Deputy Louise O'Reilly, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 47411/23

To ask the Minister for Health if Phase 2 of Early Supported Discharge, as planned under the National Stroke Strategy 2022-2027, will happen; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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 (NCP) for Stroke on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

The HSE's National Stroke Strategy 2022-2027 recommends the strategic development of services from 2022-2027 across four key pillars for stroke care: 1. Prevention, 2. Acute Care and Cure, 3. Rehabilitation and Restoration to Living and 4. Education and Research.

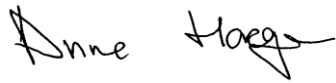
Early Supported Discharge Teams (ESD) for stroke is an international evidence-based model of care enhancing rehabilitation and restoration to activities of daily living with better outcomes for patients. This model of care supports patients to return home from hospital earlier than usual and to receive more rehabilitation in the familiar environment of their own home. Phase 1 of ESD expansion is near completion.

Primary prevention of stroke is a key ambition of the strategy. Many strokes are preventable and principal risk factors for stroke, high blood pressure and atrial fibrillation are increasing in prevalence. A key priority aligned to implementation of the stroke strategy includes extension of the current General Practitioner (GP) Agreement to include screening for hypertension in patients over 45 years of age, as part of the prevention element of the programme. Agreement has been reached between the Department of Health (DoH), Health Service Executive (HSE) and Irish Medical Organisation (IMO) to include the opportunistic case finding and management of Hypertension (HTN) Stage 1 for patients over 45 years of age in the HSE's Chronic Disease Management Prevention Programme. It is intended that this will be available to patients in Q1 2024.

HSE is currently awaiting the Letter of Determination (LOD) 2024 to be issued from the Department of Health to the HSE. This LOD will formally set out the resources being allocated to the HSE for 2024.

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