



27th November, 2023

Deputy Alan Kelly, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 51329/23

To ask the Minister for Health the extra funding and or personnel that will be allocated towards thrombectomy services in 2024.

Dear Deputy Kelly,

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 Stroke Strategy 2022-2027 was developed to address the burden of stroke at a patient, organisational and system level with a clear direction for stroke care in Ireland in line with international standards. The strategy will assist in addressing the challenge faced in Ireland with the predicted increase in the total number of strokes in Europe, an ageing demography and the rapidly changing milieu of acute stroke treatment.

The Strategy provides a blueprint for the required investment over a 5 year timeline (2022-2027), to deliver on key priorities under the pillars of:

1. Stroke Prevention;
2. Acute Care and Cure;
3. Rehabilitation and Restoration to Life;
4. Education and Research.

Outcomes and recovery from stroke are greatly improved by organised pathways of acute stroke care which includes pre-hospital, hospital and inter-hospital pathways to ensure that acute treatments such as thrombolysis (clot dissolving treatment), endovascular thrombectomy (EVT), a mechanical retrieval of the clot, which dramatically improves patient outcomes and potentially new treatments for intracerebral haemorrhage are delivered appropriately and effectively. Up to 15% of strokes may be amenable to such treatment.

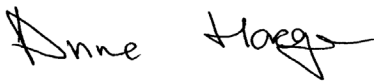
Thrombectomy is a highly effective stroke treatment, greatly enhancing the chances of an independent outcome after stroke. Thrombectomy is provided at two centres in Ireland, Beaumont Hospital, Dublin and Cork University Hospital. 416 procedures were carried out last year, representing a 9.3% treatment rate.

A consultant Neuro-Radiologist was recruited in 2023 to improve access to endovascular thrombectomy.

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