

15th May, 2024

Deputy Denis Naughten, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 19343/24

To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline the implementation steps to be taken in 2024 to deliver the National Stroke Strategy; the specific additional budget provided in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Naughten,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) 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)¹ provides a blueprint for the required investment over a 5 year timeline (2022-2027), to improve stroke services and deliver on key priorities under four pillars comprising:

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

Investment towards implementation of the HSE National Stroke Strategy commenced in 2023. Further implementation of the strategy will continue in 2024, comprising:

Prevention

- Report on the activity of the extended GMS Contract, which now includes case finding and management of hypertension in patients >45 years of age with a GMS card.

Acute Care and Cure

- Improve patient care and outcomes in acute stroke units through the continued engagement and recommendations of the Safer Staffing Framework, in conjunction with the Office of the Nursing and Midwifery Service Director (ONMSD) which aims to match nurse staffing levels and skill mix with the high complexity of stroke patients.
- Improve patient safety by improving swallow screening rates following admission to hospital with stroke. This is part of an ongoing quality improvement initiative led by the NCP Stroke, in collaboration with the HSE's National Quality and Patient Safety Directorate.
- Improve patient outcomes by enabling timely case selection for thrombolysis and thrombectomy through remote access decision-support neuroimaging software solution.

Education and Research

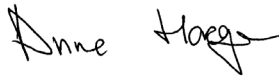
- Improve education and training of healthcare professionals working with stroke by supporting continuous professional development (CPD) of healthcare professionals in addition to the establishment of postgraduate nursing qualifications pertaining to stroke care, in conjunction with HSE Centres of Nursing and Midwifery Education (CNMEs).
- Improve public awareness of stroke symptoms and time to attend the Emergency Department through the development of a public awareness campaign. This is an ongoing collaboration with the HSE Communications Division and is expected to rollout later this year.

A non-pay budget of €7.3M has been allocated for National Stroke Strategy implementation in 2024. 2024 expenditure for stroke strategy implementation is outlined in the table below.

Role/Expenditure Description	Total Budget
Stroke Strategy non-pay budget	€275,000
CPD Fund	€25,000
Extension of GP Contracts case finding and treatment strategy of hypertension in over 45-year olds	€6,450,000
Public awareness campaign - early recognition and intervention for stroke symptoms:	€550,000
Total	€7,300,000

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

References

1. [National Stroke Strategy 2022-2027 \(hse.ie\)](https://www.hse.ie)