



6th November 2024

Deputy Bríd Smith, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 41400/24

To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans to provide dialysis treatment in Wicklow soon to accommodate people from the areas of Wicklow and Wexford who have to travel to access treatment (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

***Details supplied: Wicklow man travelling 21 hours a week to get dialysis treatment highlights need for local service | Irish Independent**

Dear Deputy Smith,

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 Renal Office (NRO) on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Haemodialysis treatment can only be provided in purpose-built units that have dedicated water treatment plants and specialised haemodialysis machinery, along with fully trained staff.

Currently, there are 24 units located throughout the country, either in a hospital-based unit or a HSE-contracted unit. Patient care details and treatment are managed by a National Electronic Patient Record System, known as Kidney Disease Clinical Patient Management System (KDCPMS). The NRO tracks prevalence by location and mode of treatment for patients receiving kidney replacement therapy – dialysis or transplantation - in Ireland.

The NRO has determined, in its latest regional capacity assessment, that there are a number of patients, who are ordinarily resident in Co. Wicklow, receiving haemodialysis treatment in one of the nearby dialysis units, in either hospital dialysis units in Tallaght University Hospital or St Vincent's Hospital or in one of the HSE-contracted satellite dialysis units at Beacon Renal Tallaght, Beacon Renal Sandyford or Wellstone Wexford.

The NRO, in conjunction with local clinicians, has identified that further expansion of haemodialysis services is required to accommodate the ongoing growth in demand locally. However, this is dependent on obtaining funding to build/commission a new dialysis unit and approval to recruit additional staff, including medical staff, nursing staff and allied health professionals to provide the dialysis care. This will be a decision for consideration by the new Regional Directors of Operations, under the revised HSE structures which are currently been progressed.

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