



NEUROLOGICAL ALLIANCE
of IRELAND

National Brain Awareness Week

March 16th - 22nd 2020

**Support the Neurological Alliance
of Ireland in Demanding Action
on Neurological Care**

Over 800,000 Irish people are living with neurological conditions including stroke, dementia, acquired brain injury, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease

THE PROBLEMS

NEUROLOGY SERVICES

Outpatient waiting lists to see a neurologist now stand at over 22,000, the highest ever, with unacceptable waiting times between appointments¹. Consultant staffing levels in regional neurology centres are totally inadequate.

NEUROREHABILITATION SERVICES

A National Neurorehabilitation Strategy was published almost a decade ago in 2011. Not one extra bed or community neurorehabilitation team has been put in place since then. There is an overwhelming unmet need for neurorehabilitation services across Ireland with less than half the inpatient beds required for our population as well as a dearth of appropriate residential, day, and vocational services and multidisciplinary therapy teams in the community.

CUTS TO VITAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY SECTION 39 ORGANISATIONS

People with neurological conditions and their families are completely reliant on not for profit organisations for long term specialist care and support to live with their condition. These organisations are under serious pressure due to increasing running costs, including insurance, and shortfalls in HSE funds that don't cover the cost of providing services. Many organisations have been forced to cut services to stay afloat as a last resort having made cuts in every other area possible.

¹ Outpatient waiting lists by Speciality (December 2019) National Treatment Purchase Fund www.ntpf.ie

THE NEUROLOGICAL ALLIANCE ARE CALLING FOR:


- Investment in Regional Neurology Centres in Sligo, Limerick and Waterford and appoint additional clinical nurse specialists in multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy & rare conditions
- Investment to support the implementation of the National Neurorehabilitation Strategy: prioritising investment in community neurorehabilitation services
- Address the funding shortfall in Section 39 organisations providing critical services to people with neurological conditions and their families

MEMBERS OF THE NEUROLOGICAL ALLIANCE OF IRELAND

Acquired Brain injury Ireland
Alzheimer Society of Ireland
An Saol
Aphasia Ireland
Ataxia Ireland
Aware
Bloomfield Health Services
Cheshire Ireland
Chronic Pain Ireland
Dystonia Ireland
Enable Ireland
Epilepsy Ireland
Headway
Huntington's Disease
Association of Ireland
Irish Heart Foundation

Irish Hospice Foundation
Irish Motor Neurone Disease
Association
Migraine Association of Ireland
Move4Parkinsons
Multiple Sclerosis Society of
Ireland
Muscular Dystrophy Ireland
National Council for the Blind
Neurofibromatosis Association of
Ireland
North West MS Therapy Centre
Parkinson's Association of Ireland
Polio Survivors Ireland
PSPA Ireland
Syringomyelia Support group of
Ireland
Spinal Injuries Ireland
Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus
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