



Neuro-rehabilitation Strategy Implementation Framework 2019-2021

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Introduction

The Health Service Executive (HSE) published a plan to implement the 2011 Neuro Rehabilitation Strategy in February 2019. The plan, referred to as the **National Implementation Framework** for the Neuro Rehabilitation Strategy covers the period 2019-2021. It was developed by an expert working group lead by the Health Service Executive (HSE) social care (disability) division and the National Clinical Programme for Rehabilitation Medicine. This working group was a sub-group of the National Steering Committee appointed in 2017 to oversee the writing and delivery of the plan.

The plan uses a ten-step framework and includes steps around:

- Undertaking a population needs assessment
- mapping of existing services
- analysing gaps in current services in line with best practice
- Developing neuro-rehabilitation services.

The Implementation Framework relates to all adults 18-65 who have neuro-rehabilitation needs. People with acquired brain injury (ABI) are the largest cohort of the population who require neuro-rehabilitation services.

The overall goal is to create a national framework of acute, inpatient and specialist community services by:

- developing local implementation teams in the HSE areas

- developing and enhancing the neuro-rehabilitation services across the spectrum
- configuring services into a Managed Clinical Rehabilitation Network model
- creating governance structures, and
- involving all stakeholders in the implementation process.

It ascribes responsibility for the implementation of the neuro-rehabilitation Strategy to the HSE disability division and the Clinical Programmes division.

One of the steps (4) provides details on the development of quality rehabilitation services. The need to grow and develop services in all areas is acknowledged.

This includes:

Service	Setting
Acute, early rehabilitation	Acute hospital
Complex, specialist rehabilitation	National Rehabilitation Hospital
Post-acute in-patient rehabilitation	Local hospital rehabilitation units
Community specialist (Community rehabilitation teams and specialist services)	Community

How will the plan be delivered?

Local implementation teams will be set up in each local HSE area (Community Healthcare Organisation, CHO). They will be made up of a range of local stakeholders. They will be responsible for the implementation of the 10-step plan within the CHO and for developing a local plan to meet the needs of their population.

What services are proposed?

1. Regional in-patient rehabilitation centres
2. 9 community neuro-rehabilitation teams (one in each CHO area)
3. Further development of the specialist community neuro-rehabilitation services (residential, transitional, community/home and vocational rehabilitation).

All the services are proposed to be co-ordinated by a number of Managed Clinical Rehabilitation Networks.

The Implementation Framework proposes the development of a project to create a demonstrator Managed Clinical Rehabilitation Network (MCRN). This project will test the model. It will also provide learning for the national development of MCRNs. The demonstrator site is established in CHO 6&7 this year since 2018.

Essential roles to develop

Three roles are identified to develop:

1. **Rehabilitation Co-ordinator** (will co-ordinate and provide a standard approach for the handling of each referral in the MCRN)
2. **Case Manager** (works with the individual and their family across the entire rehabilitation journey)
3. **Rehabilitation Assistant** (works with person on a one-to-one basis to deliver the rehabilitation plan in a person-centred way)

Costings

The plan is not fully costed. However, it contains costings for certain elements of the plan based on international best practice:

- A 20 bedded post-acute rehabilitation unit is costed at almost €2.9 million per annum
- A full Community Neuro-rehabilitation Team is costed at just over €3 million per annum per CHO.

Final comments

This document is an essential step in implementing the 2011 Neuro-rehabilitation Strategy. It acknowledges the challenges for the person with ABI (and other conditions). It also acknowledges the need for new investment and new resources as neuro-rehabilitation services are under-developed across the pathway.

Further information

The full Implementation Framework document is available to download at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/disability/neurorehabilitation/national-strategy-policy-for-the-provision-of-neuro-rehabilitation-services-in-ireland.pdf>

The Neuro-rehabilitation Strategy (2011) is available to download at: https://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/NeuroRehab_Service_s1.pdf

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ABI Ireland's Policy Briefing Paper series aims to provide accurate and up-to-date information to all our stakeholders on current and emerging policies and legislation that impact on the lives of people with ABI and their families. Comments and feedback on the papers are welcomed. Contact Gráinne McGettrick, Policy and Research Manager gmcgettrick@abiireland.ie

