



Brainwave The Irish Epilepsy Association
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Epilepsy Discussion/Fact Sheet

In 2003 the report of the Comhairle na Nospideal's committee to review Neurology and Neurophysiology was published.

Some Key Recommendations

The setting up of 3 new regional Neurology units in Limerick, Sligo and Waterford (with provision for outpatient clinic and inpatient consultations to other hospitals in their Health Board areas) These 3 units to have 2 Neurologists each

A long-term target of 39 Neurologists for the country i.e. 1 Neurologist per 100,000 of population

An interim target of 29 Neurologists for the country i.e. 1 Neurologist per 135,000 of population

The interim target specifically includes the 2 Neurologists each for Limerick, Sligo and Waterford

The long-term target for Cork to be 13 Neurologists, Interim 9 (from only 3 at present)

A target of 6 Paediatric Neurologists to include 2 posts for Cork

Cavan, Drogheda and Tullamore to have outpatient clinics and inpatient consultations provided by Beaumont

A massive increase in Neurophysiology posts from 3 to 9. Two of these posts to be in Cork, one in Galway and the remainder in Dublin

September 2006 - Norman Delanty presents facts on Epilepsy Care in Ireland

The exact prevalence and incidence of epilepsy and related disorders is unknown in Ireland. There are approximately 40,000 with epilepsy alone

There is a major shortage of neurologists, epilepsy specialists, and other professionals involved in the care of individuals with epilepsy

There are many qualified individuals currently working/training in the UK, the USA, and elsewhere who would wish to come home.

Adult Neurology

There are currently 17 publicly appointed consultant neurologists in the Republic of Ireland (four with specific expertise in epilepsy). This represents 1 neurologist per 249,113. We need at least one per 100,000 = 42.

There are four others in full time private practice

Neurophysiology

There are currently only four consultant neurophysiologists in Ireland, the report recommended a total of nine posts. These are involved in the reading of routine EEG, video EEG monitoring, and complex intra-operative monitoring and are essential in the delivery of epilepsy care.

Paediatric Neurology

There are 2 in Temple Street, 2 in Crumlin and 1 in Cork. We need about 1 per 350,000 of population = 12. There is no dedicated Paediatric Neurophysiologist.

Waiting Time

There is an appalling time to wait to see a consultant neurologist in Ireland, with waiting times of up to two years not unusual. This affects both the public and private sector and is reflective of the fact that there is a huge shortage of neurologists in this country and the fact that changes in demographics and therapeutics are not being planned for.

The Patient Journey

- New onset epilepsy / suspected epilepsy (0 months)
- Seen by GP – started on Anti Epileptic Drugs (AEDs)
- No effect or side effects (6 months)
- Referred to specialist

- Waiting time for EEG 2months - two years (30 months)
- Then waiting for tests that may be needed (36 months)
- If surgery considered, other major delays (60 months)

“These facts should be brought to the attention of every Politician. Remember there will be a General Election in May 2007 or sooner. Don’t miss the chance to have your voice heard”.

Dr. Norman Delanty Consultant Neurologist, Beaumont Hospital
Brainwave National Conference 2006