



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

An Oifig Náisiúnta don Chuimsiú
Sóisialta
Rannóg Cúram Príomhúil
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse
Sláinte
Lána an Mhuilinn
Baile Phámar
Baile Átha Cliath 20

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National Social Inclusion Office
Primary Care Division
Health Service Executive
Mill Lane
Palmerstown
Dublin 20

24th July, 2017

Deputy Jack Chambers, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 33860/17

To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the development of integrated care pathways and referral pathways from pharmacy needle exchange to other agencies.

Dear Deputy Chambers,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position:

The Pharmacy Needle Exchange and Addiction Services are committed to the development of integrated care and referral pathways. The following are examples of how this operates within the pharmacy needle exchange programme:

- Within the Service Level Agreement pharmacies are required to develop appropriate referral and close links with local treatment and support services
- Enhancement of brief intervention training for pharmacists involved in the programme
- Provision of Opiate Substitution Treatment (OST) for the patients as well as Needle Exchange
- Pathway for Blood borne virus testing for those not already in OST
- Referral to Specialists Services
- Referral mechanism for specific ethnic groups

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Doyle
National Planning Specialist