



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 33861/17

* To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide details of the expansion of other paraphernalia such as foil within the pharmacy needle exchange programme to allow clients the option of smoking rather than injecting.

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 provision of foil through the Pharmacy Needle Exchange programme will begin on a demand led basis by the end of Q3 2017. Foil provision will also allow people to smoke heroin and may prevent People Who Use Drugs from moving to injecting. It also has the additional potential benefit of providing those who inject heroin with the choice of smoking rather than injecting. It has been shown that foil provision may have the potential for a decrease in blood borne viruses; increased contact and engagement with pharmacists to discuss their healthcare needs; and direct to treatment and support services, as appropriate; reduced systemic infections and soft tissue and venal damage; lower risk of overdose; and reduced litter.

As with any new initiative introduced in the Addiction Service this will be monitored and there will be an evaluation of the uptake and benefit of the provision of foil to individuals attending the Community Pharmacy Needle Exchange. The monitoring and evaluation of the initiative will inform any further expansion and development in the community

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