



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

An Oifig Náisiúnta don Chuimsiú
Sóisialta
Rannóg Cúram Príomhúil
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse
Sláinte
Lána an Mhuilinn
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14th December, 2017

Deputy Bríd Smith, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 51789/17

* To ask the Minister for Health his policy position on methadone; the number of organisations dispensing methadone; and the supports available and plans in place for those on methadone to eventually cease using this drug.

Dear Deputy Smith,

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:

As of the end of October 2017 there were 9675 patients received Methadone Treatment (excluding prisons) which includes 5470 patients in 81 clinics and 4205 being treated by 357 GPs in the community. Methadone Treatment was dispensed by 700 pharmacies catering for 6853 patients. Hospitals and the Irish Prison service also dispense methadone in accordance with the Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Regulations 2017.

Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST) plays an intrinsic role in supporting patients to recover from drug dependence. Assessment and recovery care planning is an on-going process and, once stabilised on OST, collaborative and active care planning (e.g. using mapping tools and motivational approaches) to consider options across a wide range of personal recovery goals is an important part of a recovery-orientated culture. Treatment should seek to maximise outcomes across a range of domains, including drug and alcohol misuse, health, and psychosocial functioning.

For the Deputy's information see <http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/Primary/clinical-guidelines-for-opioid-substitution-treatment.pdf> for information on evidence based approaches to enhance the quality and safety of care that the HSE Addiction Service provides.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a stylized 'D'.

Joseph Doyle
National Planning Specialist