



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Deputy Kelleher
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

19th December 2017

PQ 53868/17* *To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the HSE training programme for addiction staff, level 2 General Practitioners and Pharmacists in relation to Buprenorphine Naloxone and Buprenorphine products; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Kelleher,

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

Response:

The prescribing of buprenorphine/naloxone and buprenorphine has been provided to limited numbers of patients under a pilot scheme initiative for a number of years now.

Some staff working within the HSE addiction service are already trained in the prescribing and dispensing of these products primarily in the Dublin region. It is anticipated that the roll out of these products to HSE Addiction services and level 2 GPs nationally will occur in the near future.

In this regard, the HSE has provided training to HSE staff working in clinics outside the Dublin area in October of 2017. In addition to this training, the HSE OST Clinical Guidelines provide information for staff in relation to prescribing these products. The Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP) have indicated that they will provide the specialist addiction training around these products for level 2 GPs in the community.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland in conjunction with the HSE and Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IIOP) have accredited training for pharmacists which is necessary to be completed by pharmacists involved in the provision of Opioid Substitution Treatment. As part of this training all pharmacists are expected to complete a component of the training on buprenorphine/naloxone treatment.

An Oifig Náisiúnta don Chuimsiú
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The training for HSE Addiction staff will continue in conjunction with the anticipated roll out of these products.

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 answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Eamon Keenan
National Clinical Lead – Addiction Services
HSE Primary Care Division