



19/08/2019

Deputy Louise O'Reilly,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 30267/19 - To ask the Minister for Health the locations of feeding clinics across the State supporting persons with disabilities that have difficulties swallowing and are prone to choking due to their disability

-Louise O'Reilly

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

While clinics specifically named as "Feeding Clinics" may not be available throughout the country; feeding, eating, drinking and swallowing (FEDS) needs are managed in several different ways, to ensure a person's needs are adequately addressed. Assessment and management for FEDS may take place in a Primary Care Centre, Disability Services, Community Hospital, Community Nursing Unit, or the patient's own home.

A Speech and Language therapist is specially trained to manage FEDS needs. An SLT can liaise with the person themselves, family members and members of the multi-disciplinary team and where indicated, a Swallow Care Plan is provided. A Speech and Language therapist may work with, or refer a patient onward to Occupational Therapists, Dieticians, Physiotherapists and Psychologists where necessary.

Where FEDS needs are identified swallowing status is continually assessed, monitored and reviewed.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Siobhán McArdle,
Head of Operations Primary Care,
Community Operations