



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
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9th May 2019

Deputy James Browne TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 19268/19 Question: To ask the Minister for Health the criteria applied when deciding the suitability of a prisoner to be transferred to the Central Mental Hospital if a place is available there; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -James Browne

Dear Deputy Browne,

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.

The Central Mental Admissions policy sets out that all referrals for admission are triaged at an admissions panel meeting on Monday mornings. If a person has a mental disorder as defined in the Mental Health Act or CL(I)A, then triage criteria for placement on the waiting list are applied using the DUNDRUM-1. These guide but do not bind the consultant psychiatrists and clinical director who are obliged to make difficult decisions.

Once on the waiting list, urgency of need for admission is guided by criteria set out in the DUNDRUM-2. Once again, these guide but do not bind the consultant psychiatrists and clinical director who must make difficult decisions.

The clinical principles applied are similar to those used for waiting lists concerning organ transplant, where need exceeds supply or resources. The waiting list for admission to the CMH is problematic. The opening of the new CMH in 2020 will go some way towards alleviating this problem, though demand continues to grow.

For convenience, I have attached the handbook of the DUNDRUM toolkit which contains the DUNDRUM-1 and DUNDRUM-2. Also attached are validation papers from Ireland, and from England, Belgium and Canada. The DUNDRUM toolkit has been translated into Flemish / Dutch, French and is being translated into German. This approach is recognised as useful and valid under circumstances of shortage in other jurisdictions.

Validation papers

Ireland

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Harry G Kennedy, Conor O'Neill, Grainne Flynn, Pauline Gill, Mary Davoren, The DUNDRUM Toolkit V1.0.30, 1.0.30, Dublin, TARA, 2016, 1 – 141
<http://hdl.handle.net/2262/76545>

G Flynn, C O'Neill, HG Kennedy. DUNDRUM-2: Prospective validation of a structured professional judgment instrument assessing priority for admission from the waiting list for a Forensic Mental Health Hospital. BMC Research Notes 2011, 4:230

G Flynn, C O'Neill, C McInerney, HG Kennedy. The DUNDRUM-1 structured professional judgment for triage to appropriate levels of therapeutic security: retrospective-cohort validation study. BMC Psychiatry 2011, 11:43

O'Neill C, Smith D, Caddow M, Duffy F, Hickey P, Fitzpatrick M, Caddow F, Cronin T, Joynt M, Azvee Z, Gallagher B, Kehoe C, Maddock C, O'Keefe B, Brennan L, Davoren M, Owens E, Mullaney R, Keevans L, Maher R, Kennedy HG. STRESS-testing clinical activity and outcomes for a combined prison in-reach and court liaison service: a 3-year observational study of 6177 consecutive male remands. International Journal of Mental Health Systems 2016 Oct 11: 10:67. DOI: 10.1186/s13033-016-0097-z.

Australia

Adams J, Thomas SDM, Mackinnon T, Eggleton D. The risks, needs and stages of recovery of a complete forensic patient cohort in an Australian state. BMC Psychiatry. 2018 Feb 7;18(1):35. doi: 10.1186/s12888-017-1584-8.

Shinkfield G, Ogloff J (2014). A Review and Analysis of Routine Outcome Measures for Forensic Mental Health Services. International Journal of Forensic Mental Health, 13:3, 252-271, DOI: 10.1080/14999013.2014.939788

Canada

Jones R, Patel K, Simpson AIF. Assessment of need for inpatient treatment for mental disorder among female prisoners: a cross-sectional study of provincially detained women in Ontario. BMC Psychiatry. 2019 Mar 27;19(1):98. doi: 10.1186/s12888-019-2083-x

Belgium

Habets P, Jeandarme I, Kennedy HG. Applicability of the DUNDRUM-1 in a forensic Belgium setting. Journal of Forensic Practice 2019. 21(1):85-94 DOI: 10.1108/JFP-11-2018-0043

Netherlands

Mareike Eckert, Sandra Schel, Harry Kennedy, Erik Bulten. Patient Characteristics related to Length of Stay in Dutch Forensic Psychiatric Care. Journal of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology 2017, 28(6):863-880

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DOI: 10.1080/14789949.2017.1332771. Published on line 6th June 2017

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 'Sinead Reynolds'.

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services