



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
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28TH May 2019

Deputy Peadar Tobin TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 20237:

To ask the Minister for Health the waiting list for CAMHS appointments by CHO area and region; the length of time each child has been waiting; the waiting list for inpatient CAMHS beds by CHO area and region; the length of time each child has been waiting; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Peadar Tóibín

Dear Deputy Buckley,

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. I would like to apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The table hereunder outlines the current activity for CAMHS.

Total No. to be seen or waiting to be seen by CAMHS Apr 2019	Total Waiting No	<= 3Mths No.	>3<=6 Mths No	>6<=9 Mths No	>9<=12 Mths No	>12<=15 Mths No	>15<=18 Mths No	>18 Mths No
National Total	2,606	1,224	587	285	194	122	64	130
CHO 1	295	175	59	28	28	5	0	0
CHO 2	22	21	1	0	0	0	0	0
CHO 3	212	72	33	23	22	20	17	25
CHO 4	669	177	124	85	79	68	36	100
CHO 5	215	122	31	19	17	16	9	1
CHO 6	383	192	127	36	20	8	0	0
CHO 7	158	102	37	19	0	0	0	0
CHO 8	415	228	116	50	13	2	2	4
CHO 9	237	135	59	25	15	3	0	0



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As of December 2018 there were 2,517 Children/ Adolescents waiting to be seen by CAMHS. This is in the context of 18546 referrals to CAMHS in 2018, with 13177 cases accepted. Of these 11888 new or re referred cases were offered appointments and 10734 new or re referred cases were seen, with 80% seen within twelve weeks.

There are two types of referral; an urgent referral and a routine referral. Every effort is made to prioritise urgent referrals so that young people with high risk presentations are seen as soon as possible and this is often within 24 to 48 hours. This may impact on wait times for cases that are considered, by a clinician, to be less severe. The CAMHS referral teams meet every week to review all referrals and to assess the risk to the young person. Waiting lists vary according to Community Healthcare Organisation where although some areas have relatively short waiting lists regrettably waiting times are longer in other counties. Severity of the symptoms reported affects waiting times where waiting times for those with high risk presentations are shorter. The reasons for differences around the country relate to availability of specialist CAMHS clinicians, current vacancies and difficulties in recruiting in an international context. CAMHS wait lists are also related to capacities in other parts of the system including primary care psychology and disability services where young people may not receive early intervention and thus their needs escalate necessitating referrals to CAMHS. However there are initiatives underway to address capacity in primary care psychology.

A number of actions are underway to address waiting lists:

- The CAMHS Waiting List Initiative which is focussing on ensuring that no-one is waiting over 12 months is continuing despite the challenges presented by the level of vacancies and the difficulty in recruiting. Where there are recruitment gaps, Community Healthcare Organisations make significant efforts to fill positions on a permanent basis while also looking at the possibility of vacancies being filled on an interim or temporary basis in order to ensure the least impact on service provision.
- In 2018, 114 new Assistant Psychologists and 20 psychologists were recruited to assist Primary Care Teams in their provision of psychological intervention for young people. These posts are designed to ensure that young people whose clinical needs are at primary care level receive appropriate intervention and do not end up on secondary care waiting lists due to lack of appropriate assessment and resources in primary care.
- 10 new posts for Advance Nurse Practitioners (ANPs) in CAMHS have also been developed to enhance the current service. These Advanced Nurse Practitioners work in collaboration with the multidisciplinary teams to increase efficiency, reduce waiting times and improve outcomes for young people within the CAMHS service.
- HSE Primary Care has developed a computerised cognitive behaviours therapy called eWell for young People 12-18 Years. Designed by the HSE, working in collaboration with the Mental Health Reform (MHR) & HSE Service Users for the past 4 years and more recently Reachout Ireland. The aspiration is



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that this program will empower service-users to develop a Mental Health skill-set, whereby users acquire skills that will increase self-awareness, coping strategies and psychological resilience. Training for this programme is currently underway.

The HSE fund Jigsaw to provide early intervention mental health services which focus on the needs of 12-25 year olds. Their early intervention model provides tangible supports for young people at primary care level who have mild and emerging mental health difficulties. There are 13 Jigsaw Services in communities across Ireland providing mental health support to young people.

CAMHS In-Patient Units

CAMHS inpatient services deliver tertiary level care and treatment to young people with severe and/or complex mental disorders. Inpatient Services are required for children and young people with a range of mental disorders (including depression, psychoses, eating disorders, severe anxiety disorders, emerging personality disorder) associated with significant impairment and / significant risk to themselves or others such that their needs cannot be safely and adequately met in the community by outpatient CAMHS teams. *Vision for Change recommends* 100 in-patient beds nationally for all aged 0-18 years, in five units of 20 beds each. The new Children's Hospital due to open in 2021 will have an additional 20 beds. There are also plans for an additional 10 CAMHS Forensic Beds in the New Forensic Hospital due to open in 2020 bringing the total number of inpatient beds for CAMHS to 104.

There are currently 74 CAMHS inpatient beds across four inpatient units in Galway Cork and Dublin. However while we currently have 74 CAMHS beds operationally we never have access to all of these. Nationally there was reduced capacity in CAMHS in-patient units in 2018. This situation has improved significantly in 2019 e.g. increasing from **36** children admitted to CAMHS in-patient units on the 31.12.2018 to **50** children admitted as of the 13/05/2019.

On the 13/05/19 there was one adolescent on the waiting list and admitted on 14th May 2019, and seven adolescents undergoing triage - a number of which may not require admission to a CAMHS in-patient unit. Close weekly monitoring at national level of the activity and wait list for in-patient services takes place with on-going engagement with the in-patient units and CHO areas as appropriate.

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

Yours sincerely,

Building a Better Health Service

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Dr Sinead Reynolds
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