



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
T 01 6207304 R: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital, Palmerstown Dublin 20
Tel: 01-6207304 Email: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

25th November 2020,
Deputy Louise O'Reilly,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ Number: 35269/20

To ask the Minister for Health if registered mental health nurses can apply to be perinatal clinical nurse specialists; if not, the specific skills they need to acquire; and the way in which they can bridge that skills gap.

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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.

You have to be a registered mental health nurse to apply for the Clinical Nurse Specialist Mental Health (CNSMH) posts as part of the Specialist Perinatal Mental Health teams nationally.

Candidates must have at the latest date of application:

1. Professional Qualifications, Experience, etc.

a)

- i) Be a registered nurse on the active Register of Nurses and Midwives held by An Bord Altranais agus Cnáimhseachais na hÉireann (Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland) or be eligible to be so registered.

And

- ii) Be registered in the Psychiatric Division of the register of Nurses and Midwives

And

- iii) Have successfully completed a post registration programme of study, as certified by the education provider, which verifies that the applicant has achieved a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) major academic Level 8 award, or higher relevant to the specialist area of Perinatal Mental Health or Specialist Mental Health Interventions prior to application.

Or

Can provide written evidence from higher education institute that they have achieved the number of ECTS credits equivalent to a Level 8 award or higher standard, relevant to the specialist area of Perinatal Mental Health or Specialist Mental Health Interventions prior to application.



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And

- iv) Have a minimum of 5 years post registration full time experience (or an aggregate of 5 years full time experience) in the Psychiatric Division of the register

And

- v) Have a minimum of 2 years' full time experience (or an aggregate of 2 years full time experience) working with women in relation to perinatal mental health issues in a specialist unit, or in an acute inpatient service, or in a community mental health team or in an acute community mental health team.

And

- vi) Demonstrate evidence of continuing professional development.
- b) Have the ability to practice safely and effectively fulfilling his/her professional responsibility within his/her scope of practice.

I hope this information will clarify the parliamentary question, please let me know if you would like any additional information.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Amir Niazi
National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health
Clinical Design and Innovation
Health Service Executive