



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
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15th December 2020
Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ 38935/20

To ask the Minister for Health the inpatient services available for adults presenting with eating disorders; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ward,

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 HSE developed and approved a Model of Care for Eating disorders that provides a blueprint for the development of specialist regional teams with skilled clinicians that can provide evidence based interventions collaborating with acute hospital physicians and GPs as required. Early intervention and evidence based treatment by multi-disciplinary specialist community eating disorder teams are recommended by the HSE Model of Care for Eating Disorders with a focus on both psychological and physical recovery. The Model of Care was launched in 2018 and continued implementation is vital to deliver access to high quality eating disorders in Ireland.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/mental-health/eating-disorders/moc/hse-eating-disorder-services-model-of-care.pdf>

Adults with eating disorders can access treatment from local community mental health teams. There are currently 111 adult community mental health teams nationwide where 90% of referrals are offered an appointment within 12 weeks. All referrals are triaged to identify need where urgent referrals are offered appointments sooner.

There is a plan to have 8 adult ED teams across the country in line with Model of Care for Eating Disorders. Currently there is one partial team in place in CHO6. There are 3 dedicated adult Eating Disorder beds in St Vincents University hospital in Dublin. It should be noted that these beds are not National beds they are beds that have been dedicated to Eating Disorder in CHO6 for many years. In other parts of the HSE adult patients are currently admitted to local general adult mental health units and attend generic inpatient treatment programmes.

If an individual is concerned about themselves or someone known to them, they should be directed to their GP in the first instance for primary care screening assessment and examination. Their GP may then make



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recommendations which may include, if clinically indicated, referral to the secondary care mental health services for full eating disorder assessment.

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