



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.

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May 6th 2021,
Deputy Bríd Smith,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ
Number: 19208/21

To ask the Minister for Health if he will clarify and under the circumstances the HSE and the public health system will fund inpatient treatment for a patient with severe eating disorders in a private hospital which is geared specifically for dealing with such disorders; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Brid Smith

Dear Deputy Smith,

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.

Most people can and do get better from eating disorders. While a small number of people benefit from more intensive treatment through day programmes or inpatient care, the most effective treatment setting is in the community. Dedicated community based eating disorder services, where multidisciplinary teams have specialist training can provide evidence based care and treatment.

If all local arrangements have been explored and exhausted and if clinically indicated, an application for funding inpatient treatment for a patient with severe eating disorders in a private hospital which is geared specifically for dealing with such disorders is made by the clinical team, supported by the Clinical Director to the Head of Service Mental Health in the CHO area.

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>

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



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Yours sincerely,

Linda Moore

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HSE Mental Health Operations