



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte,
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,
Baile Phámar, Baile Átha Cliath 20.
Tel: (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

Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

21st December 2021

PQ Number: 62089/21

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE can refer patients with specific eating disorders to a service (details supplied); the procedure for public patients to access this service; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Mark Ward

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.

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.

In January 2018 the HSE published a National Model of Care for Eating Disorders (MOC) in partnership with College of Psychiatrists' of Ireland and Bodywhys. The MOC is the blueprint for the HSE to roll out specialist eating disorder services in Ireland to address the current unmet need for specialist eating disorder service within HSE. Outpatient specialist care is considered to be the most effective treatment setting for most people with eating disorders. The MOC has a core focus on developing regional community based specialist eating disorder services provided by skilled multidisciplinary teams.

Further information can be found on the MOC here:

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

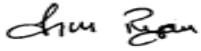
The clinical programme aims to establish an Eating Disorder network (eight adult teams and eight CAMHS teams) in accordance with the agreed Model of Care 2018. Currently, there are three teams in operation: two CAMHS teams (one serving Cork/Kerry Community Healthcare - CHO4 and the other serving Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare - CHO7) and an adult team in Community Healthcare East (CHO6). These multidisciplinary teams provide specialist eating disorder assessment and treatment in the community. Funding has been made available in 2021 to progress the recruitment of three additional Eating Disorder teams in CHO4 (adult), CHO9 (adult) and CHO2 (CAMHS).

Until the Eating Disorder network is fully established in line with the Model of Care, the HSE will continue to work with the private sector in certain circumstances if and when this is required. Decisions are made by

each CHO area and are based on the clinical need of the individual as assessed by the local mental health team.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Jim Ryan
Assistant National Director - Head of Operations
National Mental Health Service