



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
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18th February 2021
Deputy Peadar Tóibín
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

To ask the Minister for Health the average and expected wait time for a psychiatric bed in the Dublin region in the week of 25 to 31 January 2021; and the contingency plans that have been put in place to deal with the crisis.

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

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.

There is no wait time for an acute inpatient psychiatric bed in the Dublin region. All patients who present as a risk are assessed by the Multidisciplinary team and if they require an urgent admission, this is provided in the HSE or by a private provider.

There are 308 acute beds across CHO6, 7 and 9, there is also access to 90 acute beds in CHO8 if required.

If an inpatient unit has reached maximum capacity and there is a patient who based on their assessed needs requires admission following an MDT assessment.

- a. A vacant bed is sought in other in-patient units within the CHO as a starting point. If there are no beds available, then beds are sought in other units in other CHO's.
- b. If no bed is available, then approval is sought for funding for a bed within the private sector (assuming patient does not have private insurance).
- c. If a patient has attended the Emergency Department then patient remains in ED with regular psychiatric review and 1:1 special depending on level of risk.

No patient is ever discharged/transferred from the acute unit in order to make a bed available for a new admission.

During the challenging months of the covid 19 pandemic, despite acute unit closures, the HSE continued to provide an acute bed to patients if required. If a patient is assessed as not requiring acute admission, they will be offered follow up in the Out Patient Department or by the Home based treatment team.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sinead Reynolds'.

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services