



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath20.

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2nd March 2021

**Deputy Jennifer Carroll MacNeill,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.**

PQ Number: 8314/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of mental health midwives; the training they receive; the role of mental health midwives with the perinatal mental health integrated care pathway; and if he will make a statement on the matter. – Jennifer Carroll MacNeill.

Dear Deputy Carroll MacNeill,

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 currently a total of 20 MH Midwives in post, 12 of the 13 MH Midwives in spoke sites and one in each of the 6 Hub sites with an additional 2.0 in the Rotunda Hospital. Mental Health Midwives are represented by two MH Midwives at the National Oversight Implementation Group (NOIG) for the Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Service. This group meets every two months and addresses operational matters of the service. This new discipline also have their own forum of which all MH Midwives are members and any challenges arising here are brought to the NOIG for discussion.

A competency framework for the discipline is also in development and is being led by the HSEs lead Midwife Margaret Quigley. This will be very useful to this relatively new discipline to the HSE.

Separately, a handbook for Perinatal Mental Health Midwives was developed recently and replaced a previous guideline document. The handbook provides information and guidance to perinatal mental health midwives newly recruited to the 13 spoke maternity sites as a key component of implementing the National Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Model of Care. Mental Health Midwives working in Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services have a specific induction when starting their new role.

Some of the main areas covered in the handbook include:

1. An overview of the Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Model of Care
2. The role of the perinatal mental health midwife (CMM2)
3. Induction schedule for newly appointed perinatal mental health midwives
4. Perinatal mental health midwife assessment performance
5. Perinatal mental health midwife induction record
6. Establishing the spoke perinatal mental health service



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7. Referral pathway with referral form
8. Governance structure
 - generic
 - site specific
9. Clinical supervision
 - generic
 - Site specific to include local clinical pathway organogram

The midwife role in Perinatal Mental Health was first established at the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin in 2002 and 2018 respectively. The perinatal mental health midwife is a key member of the maternity and obstetric workforce who works collaboratively with midwives and obstetricians and is an integral member of the specialist perinatal mental health team which provides specialist care to women and their families throughout the perinatal period. The primary purpose of the perinatal mental health midwife role is to provide specialist care to women at risk of or experiencing mild to moderate mental health problems in the perinatal period (such as depression, anxiety, adjustment disorders and distress), and to support women and partners who have experienced birth trauma or who have fear of birth.

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

Yours sincerely,

Dr Amir Niazi
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Clinical Design and Innovation
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