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2nd March 2021 Deputy Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, Dail Eireann, Dublin 2.

PQ Number: 8315/21

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the performance indicators of mental health referrals within the maternity services; the effectiveness of the perinatal mental health 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.

Currently activity data collection from each hub and spoke site, that is Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Teams and all perinatal mental health midwives, is in development.

Data inputs required by the service are being considered by the teams and this is discussed at the National Oversight Implementation Group (NOIG) meetings. These data items will be required for a new data system which is currently in development. A business case has been developed and the SPMHS team along with other Clinical Programmes are working with Office of Chief Information Officer (OoCIO) to scope what is required for the service.

Critical to the data system will be information at patient level. This will be required to provide research and measure key outcomes for patients.

The perinatal mental health pathway is working well with a clear pathway identified for women with milder mental health problems and one for those with more complex needs. Women are usually seen in a timely manner too which is particularly important for this patient cohort – see attached

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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