



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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

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28th January 2021

Deputy Catherine Murphy,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ Number: 45202/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of inpatient beds available for persons suffering from an eating disorder per hospital in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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.

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>

CAMHS

There are currently 2 Eating Disorder specialist community teams based in CAMHS, one in CHO4 Cork and Kerry Regional Eating Disorder Service CAREDS (operational since May 2019) and the other based in CHO 7 Linn Dara Community Eating Disorder Service LDCEDS (operational since April 2018).

Children and adolescents with an eating disorder diagnosis who require inpatient treatment can be referred to one of the 4 CAMHS inpatient approved centres. Referrals are reviewed individually to determine the likely clinical benefits of admission as well as possible other treatment alternatives. There are currently 20 dedicated eating disorder beds across the four 4 CAMHS units; Linn Dara, Dublin, St Vincents in Dublin, Eist Linn in Cork and Merlin Park, Galway.



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As part of the new children's hospital development, there will be an additional 8 specialist eating disorder beds as part of a new 20 bedded CAMHS inpatient approved centre.

Adult

Adults with eating disorders can access treatment from local community mental health teams. There are currently 111 adult community mental health teams nationwide. 90% of new /re-referred adults are offered appointment within in 12 weeks therefore waiting lists are not captured. All referrals are triaged to identify need. Urgent referrals will be seen within one week, and routine referrals will be seen within four to six weeks.

There is a plan to have 8 adult ED teams across the country in line with Model of Care for Eating Disorders. Currently there is one partial team in place serving just CHO6. There are 3 dedicated adult Eating Disorder beds in SVUH. It should be noted that these beds are not National beds they are beds that have been dedicated to Eating Disorder in CHO6 for many years. In other parts of the HSE adult patients are currently admitted to local general adult mental health units and attend generic inpatient treatment programmes.

The following is a list of CAMHS and adult eating disorder beds per approved centre.

Approved centre	CAMHS or adult	Number of dedicated ED beds
Linn Dara	CAMHS	8 dedicated ED beds
Merlin Park	CAMHS	6 dedicated ED beds
Eist Linn and St. Vincent's Fairview	CAMHS	All open beds are available for ED cases
National Children's Hospital	CAMHS	8 (in building phase)
Adult approved centres	Adult	All beds available for ED cases. 3 dedicated beds in SVUH for ED from CHO6 only.

If an individual is concerned about themselves or someone known to them, they should be directed to their GP in the first instance for primary care screening assessment and examination. Their GP may then make recommendations which may include, if clinically indicated, referral to the secondary care mental health services for full eating disorder assessment

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

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services