



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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

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19th March 2021

Deputy Violet-Anne Wynne
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ 11171/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of beds specifically allocated for the treatment of persons with eating disorders that are available nationally; the hospitals in which such treatment is available; the number of beds available for patients in the mid-west; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Violet-Anne Wynne

Dear Deputy Wynne,

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 CHO 4 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 including those from the Mid West who require inpatient treatment can be referred to one of the 4 CAMHS regional inpatient approved centres. Referrals are reviewed individually to determine the likely clinical benefits of admission as well as possible other treatment



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alternatives. In addition to these beds the units in Merlin Park and Linn Dara have ring fenced dedicated beds for eating disorders – see table below.

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.

Approved centre	CAMHS	Number of dedicated ED beds
Linn Dara	CAMHS	8 dedicated ED beds
Merlin Park	CAMHS	6 dedicated ED beds
Eist Linn Cork and St. Vincent's Hospital Fairview, Dublin	CAMHS	All beds are available for ED cases
National Children's Hospital	CAMHS	8 (in building phase)

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 CHO6. There are 3 dedicated adult Eating Disorder beds in St. Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH) for CHO6 area. In other parts of the HSE adult patients are currently admitted to local general adult mental health units and attend generic inpatient treatment programmes. In the Mid West adult patients with an eating disorder can access inpatient psychiatric care in their local approved centre.

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,



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Thomas O'Brien
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