



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Patrick Costello TD

Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
Email:

26/03/2021

PQ 13311-21 To ask the Minister for Health the status of nursing and consultant posts approved by the HSE in 2018 for the operation of the Women's Health in Epilepsy programme and the implementation of the mandatory pregnancy prevention programme for women who are prescribed sodium valproate; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Patrick Costello

Dear Deputy Costello

Thank you for your representation. Foetal valproate syndrome (FVS) is a recognised clinical condition and diagnostic criteria has been developed to assist in identifying it. Where children or adults have been exposed to valproate in utero, there is concern that they may have FVS, either because of the presence of congenital malformations, or a developmental disorder. Clinical geneticists have the requisite training and expertise in the diagnosis of causes of malformations, dysmorphism and developmental disorders to be able to make a diagnosis of FVS.

To create additional capacity in the service as part of this project, the HSE focused on setting up an dedicated FVS diagnostic clinics, prioritising patients where there is a referral with a query of FVS. The capacity building exercise included the funding and the appointment of a 5.8wte posts which included a Consultant Paediatrician, Consultant Geneticist, Administration Support, Laboratory Geneticist, Advanced nurse practitioner posts and a data manager

I hope this provides you with assistance,

Yours faithfully

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO