



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

19th October 2021

PQ Number: 47741/21

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults and children referred to community specialist eating disorder teams who had waiting times from assessment to treatment started within four and eight weeks in each year from 2019 to the latest date in 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

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.

In January 2018 the HSE published a National Model of Care for Eating Disorders (MOC) in partnership with College of Psychiatrists' of Ireland and Bodywhys. The MOC is the blueprint for the HSE to roll out specialist eating disorder services in Ireland to address the current unmet need for specialist eating disorder service within HSE. Outpatient specialist care is considered to be the most effective treatment setting for most people with eating disorders. The MOC has a core focus on developing regional community based specialist eating disorder services provided by skilled multidisciplinary teams.

The clinical programme aims to establish an Eating Disorder network (eight adult teams and eight CAMHS teams) in accordance with the agreed Model of Care 2018. Currently, there are three teams in operation: two CAMHS teams (one serving Cork/Kerry Community Healthcare - CHO4 and the other serving Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare - CHO7) and an adult team in Community Healthcare East (CHO6). These multidisciplinary teams provide specialist eating disorder assessment and treatment in the community. Funding has been made available in 2021 to progress the recruitment of three additional Eating Disorder teams in CHO4 (adult), CHO9 (adult) and CHO2 (CAMHS).



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Table 1 outlines the times from assessment to treatment. The National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders is continuing to work with Office of Chief Information Officer to find a solution to our data requirements to allow improved analysis of data by team, age group and gender.

Table 1: assessment to treatment started within four and eight weeks in each year from 2018/2019 and 2020

Year	Number of referrals	Assessment started within 4 weeks	Assessment started within 8 weeks
2018/2019	203*	78%	91%
2020	228	81%	84%

* Not all teams were operating for a full year in 2018/2019. The first team commenced in April 2018, the second in November 2018 and the third in May 2019

The activity data for 2021 is due for publication in early 2022.

You might find the attached publications from the National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders useful in the context of your question.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Amir Niazi
National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health
Clinical Design and Innovation