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Deputy Sorca Clarke, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 48369/21

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of appointing one whole-time equivalent clinical psychologist to each acute hospital diabetes paediatric teams; and the number of additional clinical psychologists needed to meet this target.

Dear Deputy Clarke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme for Children (Paediatrics and Neonatology) on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

*The HSE Model of Care (MoC) for Paediatric Healthcare (Chapter 23 Diabetes and Endocrinology)*¹, published in 2016, recommended that psychology be integrated into each regional multidisciplinary team (caring for at least 150 patients with diabetes), as this expertise and support is critical to optimal outcomes and needs to be available regionally. The Model plans for teams in Dublin (outreach to services in Leinster), Cork (outreach to Tralee and Clonmel), Limerick, Galway (outreach to Ballinasloe and Castlebar), Drogheda (outreach to Cavan), Sligo (outreach to Letterkenny) and Waterford (outreach to Wexford, Kilkenny- accepting that this South East configuration is across hospital groups). Each service delivering regionalised care needs a trained multidisciplinary team.

The ratio required for psychology is 0.5 WTE Psychology per 150-200 patients with T1DM in a regionalised model.

In respect of associated costings, please refer to the table below for further details.

PQ / Rep Ref: 48369/21: Estimated cost of appointing one whole-time equivalent clinical psychologist to each acute hospital diabetes paediatric teams

No	Area	Current WTE	Required as per MoC	Senior Clinical Psychologist
1	DUBLIN (CHI @ Crumlin , Tallaght and Temple Street) outreach to services at Portlaoise	0.5 WTE at each site	1.5 WTE at each site(x3)	€ 462,034
2	Cork- outreach to Tralee and Clonmel(depending on proximity i.e. closest to home address)	0.2 WTE allocation in recent weeks. Prior to this appointment 1 WTE general paediatric psychologist shared across paediatric services- not specifically appointed for care of children and young people with paediatric diabetes.	1.8 WTE	€184,814
3	Limerick	No psychologist specifically appointed for care of children and young people with paediatric diabetes. 1 WTE general paediatric psychologist shared across paediatric services	1.0 WTE	€102,674
4	Galway -outreach to Ballinasloe and Castlebar	No psychologist specifically appointed for care of children and young people with paediatric diabetes. 1 WTE general paediatric psychologist shared across paediatric services	1.5WTE	€154,011
5	Drogheda-outreach to Cavan	None	1.0 WTE	€102,674
6	Sligo outreach to Letterkenny* (0.5 WTE Clinical Psychologist Letterkenny)	None	1.5 WTE	€154,011
7	Waterford- outreach to Wexford, Kilkenny (and on occasion Clonmel depending on postal address) - accepting that this South East configuration is across hospital groups	None	1.0 WTE	€102,674
8	Regional Hospital Mullingar	0.5 WTE	Nil	Nil
9	Total WTE and cost for Senior Clinical Psychologist		12.3 WTE	€1,263,892

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Anne Horgan
General Manager

References:

1. A National Model of Care for Paediatric Healthcare Services in Ireland Chapter 23: Paediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes Care
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/clinical-strategy-and-programmes/paediatric-endocrinology.pdf>