



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Catherine Connolly
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

12/10/2021

PQ 49699 / 21- Deputy Connolly: To ask the Minister for Health the status of recruitment for the six epilepsy specialist nurse posts approved by the HSE for the implementation of the Valproate Pregnancy Prevention Programme; the number of these posts that have been filled to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Catherine Connolly

Dear Deputy Connolly,

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. To date there has been two advanced nurse practitioners appointed as part of the pregnancy prevent programme. In addition to create capacity in the service, the HSE focused on setting up a 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. In addition the HSE has sought funding for the remaining 4 advanced nurse practitioners as part of the 2022 estimate process

I hope this provides you with assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO