



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the Chief Clinical Officer
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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Seán Canney
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

12/10/2021

PQ 49979 / 21- Deputy Seán Canney-To ask the Minister for Health his plans to recruit four unfilled epilepsy nurse specialist posts agreed in 2018 for the implementation of the pregnancy prevention programme (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Canney,

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