



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Alan Kelly,  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

29th September 2021

**PQ Number: 44264/21**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if there is a standardised operational transition process in place across CHOs for young person's transitioning from CAMHS to adult services who are receiving treatment with eating disorders outside of the National Clinic Programme for Eating Disorders; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Alan Kelly**

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Dear Deputy Kelly,

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.

The HSE published the CAMHS Standard Operating Procedure in 2015. These guidelines were reviewed and updated in 2019 and provide direction on how both inpatient and community CAMHS services operate. More information can be found at the following link

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/camhs/operational-guideline/>

#### **4.23 Transition to Adult Mental Health Services**

Section 4 of the guidelines outline the steps that are taken in the transition of a young person from a CAMHS service to an adult service. Each case is approached based on the assessed needs of the individual.

The guidelines stipulate that:

**4.23.1** If an adolescent of 17 years requires a referral to adult mental health services, a transition plan within their ICP will be required. This should ideally begin at least six months before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Not all adolescents require a transition plan, but it is essential that all are assessed for transition and that the outcome of the assessment of future need is recorded clearly.

**4.23.2** Joint working between CAMHS and adult mental health services should be considered in the initial weeks of handover to aid a smooth transition from one service to the other. These services operate in a different way to each other and this can be a significant change for adolescents and their parent (s).



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**4.23.3** The adolescent's Consultant Psychiatrist and key worker will be responsible for initiating a handover to the adult mental health service and ensuring that appropriate information is shared in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, 2016 /679 and the Data Protection Act, 2018 and the consent of the parent (s).

**4.23.4** The information required for a transition includes as a minimum a detailed referral letter or a copy of the ICP, a risk assessment, a record of all medication, details of any physical health needs and a summary of all MDT interventions.

**4.23.5** If there are any challenges during the transition process, this should be escalated to the Area Mental Health Management Team in the relevant CHO area.

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

Yours sincerely,

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**Jim Ryan**  
**Assistant National Director - Head of Operations**  
**National Mental Health Services**