



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the Chief Clinical Officer
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Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Clínicíúil
Ospidéal Dr Steevens|Lána Steevens|Baile Átha Cliath 8|D08 W2A8

BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Ruairí Ó Murchú
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

18/10/2021

PQ 46242/21- Deputy Ruairí Ó Murchú: To ask the Minister for Health the expected timeframe for the appointment of the four epilepsy nurse specialist posts to manage the patient safety requirements for women who are prescribed sodium valproate; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ó Murchú,

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 funding for two advanced nurse practitioners who have been appointed as part of the pregnancy prevent programme.

In addition the HSE set up a dedicated FVS diagnostic clinic, prioritising patients who need an assessment for 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, the two advanced nurse practitioner posts and a data manager.

The HSE has sought funding for the remaining 4 advanced nurse practitioners as part of the 2022 estimate process. Once this funding is made available these appointments will be progressed.

I hope this provides you with assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO