



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the Chief Clinical Officer
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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Ruairí Ó Murchú

Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

04/10/2021

PQ 46244-21 – Deputy Ruairí Ó Murchú: To ask the Minister for Health when the services currently in place to support families who have been affected by the use of sodium valproate will be fully operational; the details of his plans to expand support services; 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. Clinical geneticists have the requisite training and expertise in the diagnosis of causes of malformations, dysmorphology and developmental disorders to be able to make a diagnosis of FVS.

To create additional capacity in the service as part of this project, the HSE focused on setting up an 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. Once a patient receives a diagnosis of FVS they are then referred to the community to have access to health services that may be required

I hope this provides you with assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO