



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte,
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,
Baile Phámar, Baile Átha Cliath 20.
Tel: (01) 6207304 R: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

Head of Operations,
Mental Health Service, St Loman's Hospital,
Palmerstown, Dublin 20.
Tel: (01) 6207304 Email: jim.ryan1@hse.ie

Deputy Richard O' Donoghue.
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

06th May 2022

PQ Number: 21492/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if there is a self-harm protocol for patients presenting with self-harm injuries at each emergency department; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Richard O' Donoghue

Dear Deputy O' Donoghue,

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.

In 2014 the National Clinical Programme for the Assessment and Management of Patients who present to the Emergency Department (NCPSH) was introduced in a number of emergency departments (ED) that were operating 24/7.

In 2016 an agreed Model of Care was published and the service expanded. It established a clinical framework to ensure that any person who presents to the ED following self-harm or with suicide-related ideation receives a compassionate, empathic, validating response, and a therapeutic assessment and intervention from a suitably trained mental health professional. Every effort is made to ensure that a family member or supportive adult is involved in assessment and safety planning, and that they are followed up and linked to appropriate next care.

The implementation of the NCPSH since 2016 has provided several learning opportunities, and recent national and international evidence has provided further guidance on improving the service. The original Model of Care identified the need to develop access to urgent mental health care in a non-ED setting, along with ensuring people who present to the ED receive an optimum service. It is now timely to describe how those non-ED services can be developed and also to address ongoing improvements required in ED settings. An updated Model of Care National Clinical Programme for Self Harm and Suicide related Ideation provides a framework to improve services for all who self-harm or present with suicide-related ideation, regardless of where they present. It was launched by Minister Butler in February 2022. Chapter 3 outlines in detail the response for people who present to the emergency department.

The following link provides access to the documents

Building a Better Health Service

CARE COMPASSION TRUST LEARNING

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/self-harm-suicide-related-ideation/moc/ncpsh-model-of-care-by-chapters/>

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

Yours sincerely,



Dr Amir Niazi
National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health
Clinical Design and Innovation
Health Service Executive