



Clár Sláinte Náisiúnta do Mhná & do Naíonáin
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Aonad 7A, Áras
Dargan, An Ceantar Theas, Baile Átha Cliath 8
T: 076 695 9991

National Women and Infants Health Programme
Health Service Executive, Unit 7A, The Dargan Building,
Heuston South Quarter, Dublin 8
T: 076 695 9991

22nd December 2022

Deputy Shortall
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 60268/22: To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for a public menopause clinic, by wait time and clinic in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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.

A key piece of work for the National Women's and Infants Health Programme for 2021 was working collaboratively with secondary care providers regarding the development of complex menopause clinics on a regional basis. While it is envisaged that the vast majority of care in the area of menopause should be provided for in the primary setting, these speciality clinics will provide care for those whose symptoms require more specialist interventions. These clinics will accept referrals from GPs in their surrounding catchment areas, providing specialist medical advice and management to a cohort of symptomatic menopausal women.

The development of this specialist service was planned to roll-out on a phased basis. The first site for this specialist service was the National Maternity Hospital and with support from NWIHP, this clinic is fully operational as of December 1st, 2021. In 2022, NWIHP funded a further five clinics; Galway, Limerick, the Coombe, The Rotunda, and Cork and it is hoped that all five clinics will be operational by year-end. The NWIHP intend to support these specialist services in developing national clinical guidance pertaining to the management of menopause and details regarding treatment options, supports available etc.

The package for each site funded by NWIHP includes a Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist / General Practitioner specialised in the area of menopause, a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Menopause and an administrator.

The first clinic opened in NMH on 1st December 2021, followed by Nenagh, Coombe and the Rotunda in 2022. Galway and Cork are due to launch by Q1 2023.

In relation to waiting times, further to all six clinics being operational, NWIHP will be establishing a network at national level composing of all six clinical leads. Access and waiting times for these new services will be reviewed on an ongoing basis with that national network.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



Mary-Jo Biggs, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme