



**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Deputy Richard O'Donoghue  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

16<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**PQ 62904/22- Deputy Richard O'Donoghue -To ask the Minister for Health the services that are currently available to those diagnosed with foetal valproate spectrum disorder; the way that families can access these services within their communities following a diagnosis; if he will provide an update on discussions between the HSE and his Department to improve access to services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy O'Donoghue,

Thank you for your representation.

Once a child or young person receives a diagnosis of foetal valproate syndrome (FVS), the Consultant Geneticist at CHI at Crumlin will send correspondence with confirmation of the diagnosis to the Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) Chief Officer in the area that the patient resides. This letter will indicate the community health services that are recommended to support the FVS patient.

As part of this process, a community FVS pathway is in place for patients diagnosed with FVS which is supported by community Liaison officers. Liaison Officers are appointed in each Community Healthcare Organisation to guide patients in accessing any recommended healthcare supports, and each patient is assessed and referred based on their clinical needs.

The community liaison officers continue to support patients to ensure that any community healthcare supports individual to patient needs are provided as required under this FVS pathway.

The team in community primarycare have been engaging with the patient advocacy group in relation to feedback received from families and are currently carrying out analysis around the community FVS pathway. A follow up engagement will take place with the advocacy group in the coming weeks.

The HSE provides feedback to the DoH on the pathways for foetal valproate syndrome together with an update on the numbers of patients diagnosed.



I hope this provides you with some assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Hayden'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

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Sharon Hayden  
General Manager  
Office of the CCO