



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte,
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Deputy Carol Nolan.
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

28th March 2022

PQ Number: 10229/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he will expand the current audit of the child and adolescent mental health services with respect to inappropriate prescribing to include public adult mental health services in order to assess its practices and look to examine the areas in which improvements can be made; if he will provide an opportunity for adult individuals who have availed of the services to contribute to this audit; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Carol Nolan

Dear Deputy Nolan,

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.

With regard to the planned audits of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, as announced by An Taoiseach on 27th January 2022, a National Oversight Group has been established to oversee, monitor and report on implementation of the Maskey Report.

As part of their Terms of Reference for the National CAMHS Audit, the National Oversight Group is tasked with commissioning;

- i. An audit of compliance with CAMHS Operational Guideline (2019) to include design of bespoke audit framework and summary of findings in respect of gaps in adherence, regional and other factors impacting same, and conclusions on requirement for targeted service improvement.
- ii. A qualitative study of CAMHS experiences to include design of qualitative research methodology in order to determine the lived experience of service users, families and carers, staff, referrers and other key stakeholders interacting with the CAMHS service.
- iii. An independently chaired review of medication practice across all CAMHS Teams, supported by a project team from the HSE National Quality and Patient Safety Directorate National Centre for Clinical Audit (NCCA).

At this point, it is not anticipated that the current audit /terms of reference of the Oversight Group will be expanded to include Adult Mental Health Services, as this is outside the remit of the National Oversight Group.



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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Ryan".

Jim Ryan
Assistant National Director - Head of Operations
National Mental Health Services