



Príomhoifigeach Cliniciúil
Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Cliniciúil

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Michael Fitzmaurice

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

24th January 2022

PQ 63174/21- Deputy Michael Fitzmaurice- To ask the Minister for Health when families impacted by sodium valproate will be able to access services which have been agreed under the community operations programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Fitzmaurice,

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, dysmorphism 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 have set up a dedicated FVS diagnostic pathway, prioritising patients where there is a referral with a query of FVS. 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. Each CHO have appointed a named liaison officer to link with families to support them in the community.

I hope this provides you with assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO