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11th August 2022

Deputy Clarke
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 41915/22: To ask the Minister for Health the number of menopause clinics in each CHO area in tabular form.

PQ Ref 41917/22: To ask the Minister for Health the extent of the waiting list period for those on waiting lists for menopause clinics in tabular form.

PQ Ref 41918/22: To ask the Minister for Health the number of menopause specialists in Ireland.

Dear Deputy Clarke,

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 will be funding another 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.

In relation to the number of menopause specialists in Ireland, 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.

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.

The HSE website also provides information to women regarding menopause and this can be viewed via the following link:

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/menopause/#:~:text=vaginal%20oestrogen%20cream%2C%20tablets%2C%20or,can%20improve%20some%20menopausal%20symptoms>

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



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