



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

6th July 2022

Deputy Devlin
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 32058/22: To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on HSE support for women going through the menopause, with particular regard to any link between the menopause and asthma; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Devlin,

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 specialist 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 have provided funding for 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.

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>

In relation to the link between menopause and asthma, in clinical practice, this is not a common issue. However, menopausal women who develop exacerbations of asthma are advised and treated by their GPs who are best placed to do so.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



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