



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte,  
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,  
Baile Phámar, Baile Átha Cliath 20.  
Tel: (01) 6207304 R: [jim.ryan1@hse.ie](mailto:jim.ryan1@hse.ie)

Head of Operations,  
Mental Health Service, St Loman's Hospital,  
Palmerstown, Dublin 20.  
Tel: (01) 6207304 Email: [jim.ryan1@hse.ie](mailto:jim.ryan1@hse.ie)

Deputy Mark Ward.  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

16<sup>th</sup> March 2022

**PQ Number: 12522/22**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the evaluation that has taken place of staff training and education needed for specialist eating disorder teams; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mark Ward**

Dear Deputy Ward,

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.

In January 2018, the HSE published a National Model of Care for Eating Disorders (MOC) in partnership with College of Psychiatrists' of Ireland and Bodywhys. In the absence of a pre-existing dedicated eating disorder infrastructure or strategy, this Model of Care document has been developed in order to guide the provision of high quality, accessible and value for money eating disorder services in Ireland. Key recommendations include the development of a national network of dedicated eating disorder teams embedded within the mental health service, a stepped model of outpatient, day patient and inpatient care provision based on clinical need, and the development of a skilled, trained workforce. In the context of the significant physical morbidity associated with eating disorders, this Model of Care also recommends a strong integration between primary care, mental health services and medical teams, including the bridging of the acute hospital and mental health service divide through mutual clinical commitments and shared pathways.

The MOC has a core focus on developing regional community based specialist eating disorder services provided by skilled multidisciplinary teams. The NCPED aims to establish an ED network (8 adult teams and 8 CAMHS teams) in accordance with the agreed Model of Care 2018. There are currently 3 eating disorders (ED) specialist teams in operation, 2 CAMHS teams serving Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CHO4) and Community Healthcare Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow (CHO7) and an adult team in Community Healthcare East (CHO6). These multidisciplinary teams provide specialist eating disorder assessment and treatment in the community and are the foundations of delivering quality eating disorder care across the stepped model of care.

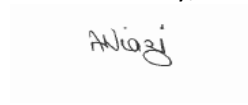
The development of a skilled experienced workforce in eating disorders is a key recommendation of the MOC. The NCPED has worked to develop online and face-to-face training and education for all clinicians including supervision in evidence based treatments. This is and will be paramount, as newly recruited teams become operational and delivering services. As the eating disorder network continues

to grow, we will continue to convene biannual Eating Disorder Team network days to support training and shared learning.

Training in first line evidence based interventions like FBT and CBTe is sourced and delivered by the organisations that developed the treatment modalities. Clinicians are selected based on the required selection criteria laid down by the providers. They are then invited to join regular clinical supervision groups, which are provided by subject matter experts. The NCPED has developed links with key providers in NHS, US and other countries. Feedback and reviews of training are ongoing. Since March 2020, the NCPED has shifted training to online. This has increased the frequency that training can be offered to our ED teams and other clinicians delivering evidence based care to people with eating disorders.

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

Yours sincerely,



---

**Dr Amir Niazi**  
**National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health**  
**Clinical Design and Innovation**  
**Health Service Executive**