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Deputy Verona Murphy.
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

30th March 2022

PQ Number: 13074/22
PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the current system the HSE operates for data collection of mental health and psychiatric illness patients; if a dedicated information technology system is in place for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Verona Murphy

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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.

Background and context to Community data collection
From 2009 Community Mental Health Services has been collecting and collating national data from the Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and from 2013 data was collected from the Community Adult & Psychiatry of Later Life services (POLL). Community Mental Health services have a range of systems locally that records various data.

The anonymised data patient activity (referrals, cases seen, waiting lists etc.) data is collected monthly across all community psychiatric services in Ireland (73 CAMHS, 112 Community adult and 32 POLL teams) it is then submitted to a central repository for reporting by the HSE National Business information Unit. Data was collected for a number of reasons including accountability, transparency and to allow for ease of access to information in a singular location, however there are limitations to this data collection for a number of reasons including the absence of a universal ICT system across the country, the number of manual interventions involved in the collection process and the roll out of an individual health identifier.

Background and context to Acute inpatient data collection
The Health Research Board (HRB) has been the state agency tasked with collecting detailed Mental Health data since before the inception of the HSE. In 2006 the Department of Health/ Health Service Executive (HSE) commissioned the HRB to compile some of this data into Performance Indicator reports based on adult admissions to an approved centre, by type of admission(first, re-admission or involuntary) & length of stay. Currently this data is returned from the approved centres either electronically or via a template to the HRB who validate and report on same.

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Future Plan

National Community Operations are working with a range of stakeholders to design and implement an Integrated Community Case Management System (ICCMS) which will support patient and service user case management and pathway needs across all Community Care Groups. The ICCMS programme is overseeing this body of work. At this present time, the recording and reporting systems of Community Service delivery vary across the country with an over-reliance on manual systems. The system will support a number of improvements including information sharing, reducing duplication of effort, and communication between patients and service users, staff, services, and systems.

This programme aims to build on the progress already undertaken in relation to scoping community ICT systems, some of which include but not limited to; Primary Care Management System (PCMS), Community Electronic Health Record (EHR), and Enhanced Community Care Programme (ECCP).

ICCMS is an integrated community case management system aiming to significantly enhance patient care and experience across each community care group while also improving the interface between community services with both GP and acute services.

The ICCMS system will support the following service functions, with person centred care being the overarching principle:

- referral management
- appointment scheduling
- triage and wait list management
- case management and integrated working across each community care group
- workload and team management
- operational and strategic decision making

The Programme is in line with the vision and aims of the HSE Corporate Plan and Sláintecare.

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

Yours sincerely,

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