



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
D08 W2A8.

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18th May 2022

Deputy Patrick Costello,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 22267/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the positions, titles, and names of the persons currently working in the National Foetal Valproate Syndrome Assessment Team; the location they are geographically based; and the resources allocated to them.

- Patrick Costello

Dear Deputy Costello,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 22267/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Foetal valproate syndrome (FVS) is a recognised clinical condition either because of the presence of congenital malformations, or a developmental disorder, and diagnostic criteria have 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, dysmorphology and developmental disorders, to be able to make a diagnosis of FVS. To create additional capacity in the service as part of the project, the HSE have set up a dedicated FVS diagnostic pathway, prioritising patients where there is a referral with a query of FVS. Dr. Anand Sagga, Consultant in Genetics, currently leads this pathway with the support from the staff of Children's Health Ireland. 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 also has appointed a dedicated liaison officer to link with families to support them in the community.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations

