



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
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Deputy Mark Ward.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

02/06/2022

PQ Number: 27245/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the IT supports that are in place for perinatal mental health services; 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.

The National Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Programme (SPMHS) Model of Care launched in November 2017. It is based on the maternity networks recommended in the National Maternity Strategy and aligned to hospital groups, developed in a 6 hub and 13 spoke format with all 19 maternity services included. Staffing for specialist perinatal mental health services increased from 4.0WTE (2017) to approximately 74.0WTE nationally (2022). Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Teams based in hub sites. SPMHS are led by a Consultant Perinatal Psychiatrist who has specific perinatal mental health training to support women usually with moderate to severe mental health problems who require this service. Both hub and spoke sites are staffed by Perinatal Mental Health Midwives who respond to women with mild to moderate mental health problems.

There is no specific data system to routinely collect data for any of the National Clinical Programmes. We are working with the IT Department in the HSE to address this problem. The mental health clinical programmes developed a proposal in 2021 to put in place a bespoke data system to capture data for a number of mental health clinical programmes as well as the Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services. Even funding was allocated for this initiative.

The proposal was submitted to the Community Digital Oversight Group (CDOG). It was acknowledged by the group that there is a clear requirement for an ICT solution that would support the recording of activity and clinical data throughout the clinical programme patient journey. Since the cyber-attack on HSE systems in 2021, the IT department is building a system and we are included in it, but it has not been launched yet.

Some maternity hospitals have the MN-CMS system pre cyber-attack, but it is not in place everywhere and will not capture all of the information needed at the level of detail required by a new specialist programme.

Hospitals also have the PAS system which is an older system but again will not give the level of detail required by the Programme.

The National Programme does collect some excel data but it is not at patient level and open to error as it a manual system.

Further information on a bespoke system for this Programme and other Clinical Programmes could be sought from the Community Digital Oversight Group Community Operations Health Service Executive St. Loman's Hospital Dublin 22.

For more information on the Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Service please see the following link [here](#).

Yours sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amir Niazi".

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