



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,
Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
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St Loman's Hospital,
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Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

07th December 2022

PQ Number: 59032/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update when the report on the audit into CAMHS by the HSE will be published; 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.

Please see update on CAMHS audits below:

i) Audit of CAMHS prescribing practice: Independently chaired by Dr Collette Halpin, an expert team has been established to conduct a review of prescribing practice in CAMHS. Membership of the expert group also includes Dr Imelda Whyte, nominated by the College of Psychiatry, and Dr Suzanne McCarthy, Senior Lecturer in Clinical Pharmacy Practice, UCC. The expert team is administratively supported by the HSEs National Centre for Clinical Audit and Community Operations. Following a successful pilot, and supported by webinars, all CAMHS have undertaken a self-audit of a random selection of case files where the child or young person had been prescribed medication. There has been a 100% response rate from CAMHS teams in provision of requested information. As this was a self-audit, teams have had an opportunity to address and notify of any arising concerns, while the national analysis and expert report is being finalised. The national audit commenced July 2022, with a final report expected Quarter 4, 2022.

(ii) An audit of compliance with the CAMHS Operational Guideline (2019) has commenced to include the design of a bespoke audit framework, a gap analysis of adherence to the COG, any regional or other factors impacting same, and conclusions on the requirement for targeted service improvement. The successful provider commenced work in August 2022 and a pilot of the audit framework has been completed. It is expected the audit will be completed by Quarter 1, 2023.

(iii) UCC has been engaged as an academic partner to conduct qualitative research into CAMHS experiences. This research will involve a qualitative study of CAMHS experiences in order to determine the



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lived experience of service users, families and carers, staff, referrers and other key stakeholders interacting with the CAMHS service. The research methodology for this audit strand requires ethical approval and this process is in the final stages of completion. It is expected the research will be completed within six months from confirmation of ethical approval.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Hennessey', enclosed in a light grey rectangular box.

Sarah Hennessey
General Manager
National Mental Health Services