



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin,  
Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.  
R: [PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie](mailto:PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie)

Head of Operations, Mental Health Service  
St Loman's Hospital,  
Palmerstown, Dublin 20.  
Email: [PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie](mailto:PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie)

Deputy Claire Kerrane,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

25<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**PQ Number: 49495/22**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to situations with regard to children and young people who are discharged from CAMHS where these patients are referred to a HSE healthcare centre or day hospital to be seen by a psychologist which often have long waiting lists; if he will advise the supports that are in place to prevent the patient waiting for extended periods without a doctor appointment or prescription for medication; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Claire Kerrane**

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Dear Deputy Kerrane,

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.

When a Child or Young Person is discharged from CAMHS, the CAMHS Operational Guidelines (2019) outlines the following (see also Appendix 3.6 & 3.7)

#### **4.25 Discharge from Community CAMHS:**

**4.25.1** Discharge from Community CAMHS occurs when a child or adolescent no longer requires the intervention of CAMHS. This may mean that they have achieved their goals or it may mean that they are not benefitting from CAMHS and their needs are better met in another service. (See Appendix 3.7).

**4.25.2** Discussions about discharge planning should begin at the Initial Assessment or when the ICP is drawn up, in collaboration with the child or adolescent and their parent (s).



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**4.25.3** Discharge for most individuals should be seen as a positive outcome and part of the recovery process. Discharge planning should focus on the child or adolescent's recovery and should include a follow up plan with the GP and other community services. It should also include advice and information on the re-referral process to CAMHS in the event of a relapse.

**4.25.4** A discharge summary should be shared with parent(s) and referral agents, subject to consent (see Appendix 3.6).

**4.25.5** A discharge meeting with the child or adolescent, the parent(s) and any community supports who are involved, should occur prior to the formal discharge.

Further information can be found at the following link:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/camhs/operational-guideline/>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Mc Cusker'.

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**Tony Mc Cusker**  
**General Manager**  
**National Mental Health Services**