



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta  
Géaroibríochtaí

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Deputy Paul Murphy  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

8th August 2023

***PQ 33608/32 To ask the Minister for Health if, given the issues with long-Covid diagnosis and the lack of services and supports made available to those who are diagnosed, he can advise what mental health services are in place to support patients who have had to battle for their illness to be recognised; if he can describe the services for adult patients, children suffering with long-Covid and their families; and if he will make a statement on the matter.***

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.

In response to the need to provide follow up support and care for patients experiencing prolonged signs and symptoms of COVID-19 the HSE developed an Interim Model of Care (MoC) for Long COVID which was finalised in September 2021. The MoC set out a framework for the provision of services and supports spanning General Practice, Community Services, Acute Hospitals and Mental Health Services. It recommended the development of six Long COVID clinics, eight Post-Acute COVID clinics and one tertiary referral neurocognitive clinic for those with complex neuro-cognitive/neuropsychological symptoms. Our services work closely with the CAMHS and Adult Community Mental Health Teams to gather information and service needs for this cohort of patients. It should be noted that the MoC relates to adult services only; there is no MoC for Paediatric Long Covid.

The resources and personnel required for each of these clinics was identified and the HSE worked closely with clinicians and senior management at each site to map existing resources against what was outlined within the Model.

The staff required included Respiratory and Infectious Disease Consultants, administrative staff, specialist respiratory physiotherapists, clinical nurse specialists and Liaison Psychiatry or Psychology staff, depending on local need. All Long Covid clinics have links to their local Liaison Psychiatry teams. It was proposed that any occupational therapy and dietitian supporting services should be delivered in the community by the Community Health Network staff. It was also identified that as a minimum the post-COVID Specialist Assessment Clinics should have age appropriate arrangements in place for managing children and young people with post-COVID syndrome including support for psychological needs.



I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Catherine Clarke'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

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Catherine Clarke  
Assistant National Director, Acute Operations