



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

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

Deputy Martin Browne.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

16th March 2023

PQ Number: 10419/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he intends to develop a model of care for people with the eating condition of avoidant restrictive food intake disorder; if he intends to develop a model of care for people with ARFID and a diagnosis or ASD or other associated condition in what could be referred to as dual diagnosis; if he has any intention of appointing a clinical lead in providing a pathway to care for people with ARFID, with reference to children and adults; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Martin Browne

Dear Deputy Browne,

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.

As per responses issued to you in respect of Parliamentary Question **4963/23** and Parliamentary Question **10422/23**, there is a lack of research, best practice information and evidence based treatments for ARFID. As a consequence ARFID is not included in NICE guidelines for Eating Disorders (2017 or 2020 update). ARFID is also not included in APA American Psychiatric Association draft guidelines for eating disorders 2022. Treatment plans are best developed in a bespoke manner by treating teams and guided by the profile of the individual case. Given the absence of an evidence base for service models or formal treatments, there are no national HSE care pathways or clinical lead for ARFID. Cases of ARFID will present across health care settings including primary care, disability services, paediatrics, adult medicine, mental health services, feeding clinics and eating disorder services.

A pilot outpatient ARFID service or feeding clinic was recently established in England during 2019 at the Maudsley Centre for Child and Adolescent Eating Disorders which is a global leader in Eating Disorder Services. This pilot is leading the development of clinical services, care pathways, training and research. Recommendations where services for ARFID best sit within health systems are awaited and currently not known.



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

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

Management of individuals with ARFID in Ireland require collaborative working between a number of professionals and, depending on a person's needs and level of complexity, may involve joint working between the acute hospital sector and HSE community healthcare divisions such as Primary Care, Disability and Mental Health. Effective treatment and care planning requires access to dietetics across mental health, disability and outpatient paediatric services. Such joint working is governed by existing joint working protocols and established CHO and hospital governance structures.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Ryan".

Jim Ryan
Assistant National Director - Head of Operations
National Mental Health Services

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan".

Mr Bernard O'Regan,
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations