



Oifig an Chomhairleora Chliniciúil
Náisiúnta agus Ceannaire Grúpa do
Mheabhairshláinte

HSE, Ospidéal an Dr Stevens, Baile Átha
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Office of the National Clinical
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Deputy Claire Kerrane,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Date: 21.02.2024

PQ Number: 44307/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he will advise on the National Clinical Programme for the treatment of ADHD in adults which has yet to be extended to the Community Healthcare West; when funding for this service will be forthcoming; if those who urgently require service can receive care in a different community health area that is providing the same service; and if he will make a statement on the matter?

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.

The Adult ADHD National clinical Programme was set up to design and implement public assessment and treatment services for adults with ADHD in Ireland as no such services were available within the Adult Mental Health Services.

The Model of Care is based on 11 catchment area specific Adult ADHD Clinics being set up nationally with an additional clinic to work alongside the Forensic Psychiatry Teams in-reaching the Dublin prisons.

Each consultant led multidisciplinary clinic now costs 720,000 Euros.

Funding to establish a service in HSE West was requested from the Department of Health through the budget allocation process last year and again this year. No funding was allocated either year and so a new service cannot be established. We will continue to advocate for the expansion of this service to the areas where we do not have a dedicated team. This means there will continue to be no public Adult ADHD service available to adults of all ages, including young people with ADHD transitioning from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, living in counties Galway, Roscommon and Mayo.

Experience with the 5 Adult ADHD Clinics funded and set up to date is that the numbers being referred are very high post pandemic coupled with increased public awareness. None has the capacity to accept referrals outside their catchment area.

It is essential that the government priorities ring-fenced funding to ensure that people in all areas in the country have access to a public Adult ADHD Clinic given the profound impact on people of untreated ADHD. These include:

- Difficulties in personal and social relationships
- A negative impact in educational achievement at third level and of getting and keeping a job
- Increased risk of substance misuse
- Increase risk of accidents and road traffic accidents in particular in younger men
- Increased risk of mental illnesses such as anxiety and depression
- Increased risk of suicide and repeated self-harm.

Many women have not been identified so the absence of a service response in adulthood for them is particularly serious and may also impact on their role as mothers.

Other Supports available:

1. ADHD Ireland <https://adhdireland.ie/for-adults/> is a voluntary organisation providing information, advice and support groups for adults who think or know they have ADHD

2. ADHD App <https://adult.adhdirl.ie/download>

The ADHD in Adults National Clinical Programme in partnership with ADHD Ireland and the UCD School of Psychology developed the Adult ADHD App. The App provides specific information for adults who have ADHD or think they may have ADHD. It is available to download from apple and google app stores and through <https://adult.adhdirl.ie/download>. The app provides self-care and signposting information regarding adult ADHD. It is important to note that is not a treatment programme or a replacement for medical advice and care.

The app is designed to help adults:

- Who think they may have ADHD
- Diagnosed with ADHD and seeking further information
- Diagnosed with ADHD as children and requiring on-going treatment as adults
- Attending mental health services in whom ADHD has not been recognised
- And family and friends of adults with ADHD

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amir Niazi", is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Dr Amir Niazi

National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health Clinical Design and Innovation

Health Service Executive