



Oifig an Chomhairleora Chliniciúil
Náisiúnta agus Ceannaire Grúpa do
Mheabhairshláinte

HSE, Ospidéal an Dr Stevens, Baile Átha
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Deputy Darren O'Rourke.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

21st September 2023

PQ Number: 38852/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE staff by job title that would be required to fully resource a specialist eating disorder team, in tabular form. -Darren O'Rourke

Dear Deputy O'Rourke,

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.

In January 2018 the HSE published a National Model of Care for Eating Disorders (MOC) in partnership with College of Psychiatrists' of Ireland and Bodywhys. In the absence of a pre-existing dedicated eating disorder infrastructure or strategy, this Model of Care document has been developed in order to guide the provision of high quality, accessible and value for money eating disorder services in Ireland. Key recommendations include the development of a national network of dedicated eating disorder teams embedded within the mental health service, a stepped model of outpatient, day patient and inpatient care provision based on clinical need, and the development of a skilled, trained workforce.

The NCPED aims to establish an ED network (8 adult teams and 8 CAMHS teams) in accordance with the agreed Model of Care 2018. These multidisciplinary teams provide specialist eating disorder assessment and treatment in the community and are the foundations of delivering quality eating disorder care across the stepped model of care. CAMHS ED team staffing is recommended at WTE 14.4 per 500,000-600,000. Adult ED Team staffing is recommended at WTE 13.4 per 500,000-600,000. The estimated cost of an additional adult team for eating disorders serving a population of 500,000 is €2m. This does not include capital costs for building or training and education costs. The table below shows the job titles required:

Adult Consultant	Consultant	1.00
NCHD	HST	1.00
NCHD	BST	1.00
Dietitian	Senior	1.00

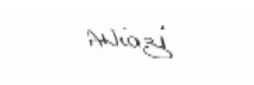
Psychologist	Senior Psychologist	1.00
Nursing	CNS	3.00
Social Worker	Senior SW	1.00
Clinical Team Coordinator	Senior OT	1.00
Occupational Therapist	Senior OT	1.00
Admin	Grade IV	1.00
Admin	Grade iii	1.00
Dietitian hospital	Senior	1.00
Creative therapist	Senior OT	1.00
Consultant Physician	Consultant	0.50

An estimated 188,895 Irish people will experience an eating disorder at some point in their lives (based on epidemiological projections). Approx. 1,757 new ED cases develop each year in Ireland in the 10-49 age group. Children, adolescents and adults are presenting more medically unwell with more severe clinical presentations than prior to the pandemic. Referral rates to existing community eating disorder teams have significantly surpassed predicted demand and capacity estimates made prior to the pandemic.

Given this increase in demand for eating disorders services and the recent preliminary census 2022 data showing an overall increase in population a review of the Model of Care is planned during 2024. The outcomes of this review will inform the ED teams' staffing requirements from 2025 onwards.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Amir Niazi
National Clinical Advisor