



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin, Baile Phámar,
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Deputy Mark Ward.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

21st September 2023

PQ Number: 39269/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if awareness campaigns are being developed by the HSE in relation to perinatal health; for an update on perinatal services available in each CHO and if he will make a statement on the matter- Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward

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.

Further to my response to your **Parliamentary Question 39270/23**, awareness of Perinatal Mental Health problems has increased substantially within the maternity services since the inception of the Model of Care for Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services (SPMHS) in 2017. The SPMHS Programme recommendation that all women attending maternity services have screening for mental health problems has been implemented. In addition, the SPMHS programme has developed information leaflets on perinatal mental health problems are displayed within the maternity services and are available online on the HSE website. Information on postnatal depression and postpartum psychosis is also available to the public on the HSE website. A Perinatal Mental Health App has been developed for staff with a patient App currently in development. There is a need to increase public awareness of perinatal mental health problems not only among women themselves but also among their partners and initiatives to facilitate this will form the focus on further discussions within the programme.

Further information on Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services can be found here:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/specialist-perinatal-mental-health/#:~:text=What%20is%20Perinatal%20Mental%20Health,reoccurrence%20of%20pre%2Dexisti ng%20disorders.>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tony Mc Cusker'.

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services