



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin, Baile Phámar,
Baile Átha Cliath 20, D20 HK69

Office of the
Assistant National Director
Mental Health Operations

St Lomans Hospital, Palmerstown,
Dublin 20, D20 HK69

www.hse.ie
@hselive

t: 01-6207304

e: PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Deputy Mark Ward.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

21st September 2023

PQ Number: 39270/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health for an update on perinatal services in each CHO area; 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.

There are 19 maternity hospitals in Ireland. The Model of Care for Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services (SPMHS) was launched in 2017 and is based on a hub and spoke model. There are 6 hub (located in the largest maternity hospitals) and 13 spoke sites. The 6 hub sites have specialist consultant led multidisciplinary mental health teams including Perinatal Mental Health Midwives and all posts recommended in the Model of Care have been filled. Mental Health care in the spoke sites is provided by Perinatal Mental Health Midwives for women with milder mental health problems and by Liaison Mental Health teams (or General Adult Community Mental teams in their absence) for women with moderate to severe mental illness. Perinatal Mental Health Midwives, funded by the National Women and Infants Programme, have been recruited to the spoke sites and have been implementing the programme in each site. A map of the services is outlined in the attachment including division of hospitals within each CHO.

Further awareness of Perinatal Mental Health problems has increased substantially within the maternity services since the inception of the Model of Care. 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.



Appendix 1 attached outlines the map of the services including division of hospitals within each CHO. Appendix 2 outlines the Hub and Spoke Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Network.

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%2Dexisting%20disorders.>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Mc Cusker'.

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
National Mental Health Services