



Oifig an Chomhairleora Chliniciúil  
Náisiúnta agus Ceannaire Grúpa do  
Mheabhairshláinte

HSE, Ospidéal an Dr Stevens, Baile Átha  
Cliath 8, DO8 W2A8

Office of the National Clinical  
Advisor and Group Lead for Mental  
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Deputy Mark  
Ward,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

08.05.2024

**PQ Number: 17609/24**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the increased bed capacity for the National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders; the funding allocated for eating disorder beds in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. Mark Ward**

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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.

Most people can and do recover from eating disorders if they receive effective, evidence based treatment from ED trained staff. While a small number of people benefit from more intensive treatment through day programmes or inpatient care, the most effective treatment setting is in the community. The HSE Model of Care (MOC) has a core focus on developing regional community based specialist eating disorder services provided by skilled multidisciplinary teams. To date recurrent funding has been provided to establish 11 Eating Disorder Teams.

Children and adolescents with an eating disorder diagnosis who require inpatient treatment can be referred to one of the CAMHS in-patient approved centres by their treating CAMHS consultant. Referrals are reviewed individually to determine the likely clinical benefits of admission as well as possible other treatment alternatives. There are four CAMHS in-patient acute units across the HSE; Linn Dara Approved Centre in Dublin, St Joseph's Approved Centre in Dublin, Eist Linn Approved Centre in Cork and Merlin Park Approved Centre in Galway. Specialist eating disorder beds are available in Merlin Park Galway and Linn Dara. There are currently 20 dedicated eating disorder beds across the four 4 CAMHS units.

As part of the new CHI hospital development, there will be an additional 8 Specialist Eating Disorder beds as part of a new 20 bedded CAMHS inpatient approved centre which will be collocated within the new children's hospital.

Adults who have an eating disorder diagnosis and require inpatient care can be referred to any of the HSE's acute in-patient mental health approved centres around the country. Referrals are reviewed individually to determine the likely clinical benefits of admission as well as possible other treatment alternatives. If in-patient treatment is recommended by a clinician, every effort is made to prioritise urgent cases. CHO6 St. Vincent's University Hospital has 3 specialist inpatient psychiatric beds.

In line with Sharing the Vision (StV), the national mental health policy, an expert group was set up to examine Acute Inpatient bed provision (including the NCPED for adult eating disorder beds) and to make recommendations on capacity, reflective of emerging models of care, existing bed resources

and future demographic changes, with such recommendations being aligned with Sláintecare. A report on acute bed capacity was produced and presented to the National Implementation and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) for StV.

The HSEs Chief Operations Officer has since established a Capital Planning Group for Mental Health Services, which has been tasked with:

- Identifying and prioritising mental health capital requirements over the next five to ten years based on existing and future service need, and on regulatory requirements.
- Completing a medium and long term strategic mental health capital estates plan aligned to the new health regions, which supports the implementation of StV.

In developing the estates plan, the Capital Planning Group has formally accepted the report of the Acute Bed Capacity Expert Group and will be guided by it in its deliberations, while also taking into account emerging models of care, clinical programmes, more flexible approaches to service provision and the broad range of service improvement being driven by Sharing the Vision implementation

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

Yours sincerely,



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**Dr Amir Niazi**  
**National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health**  
**Clinical Design and Innovation**  
**Health Service Executive**