



Oifig an Chomhairleora Chliniciúil
Náisiúnta agus Ceannaire Grúpa do
Mheabhairshláinte

HSE, Ospidéal an Dr Stevens, Baile Átha
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Deputy Alan Farrell,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

12th July 2024

PQ Number: 23027/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if specialist mental health services for eating disorder patients will be extended to all paediatric hospitals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Alan Farrell

Dear Deputy Farrell,

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
- 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 consultant led 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. Today (May 2024) there are 11 NCPED teams at various stages of development across the HSE 5 CAMHS and 6 Adult teams.

The Guidelines for Assessment and Management of Eating Disorders in the Emergency Department were published by The Irish Association of Emergency Medicine in 2023. The National Anorexia Nervosa Paediatric Hospital Guidelines were published by The National Clinical Programme for Paediatrics in February 2024. These documents provide guidance to

staff in acute hospitals, including meal support, nursing guidance, dietetic recommendations, multidisciplinary working, the role of mental health teams and medical management.

The NCPED has successfully secured additional funding from **Women's Health Task Force** to recruit medical/paediatric consultants and hospital dietitian sessions within acute hospitals to work with existing and future community eating disorder teams. The first hospital dietitian in paediatrics with dedicated sessions for eating disorders began in May 2022. The first 0.4 Consultant Paediatric post commenced with CHO4 CAMHS ED team from end Jan 2023 and second post commenced in CHO7 in October 2023. Discussions are also in progress to recruit 2 further paediatric posts in CHO 2 and CHO 6. This additional skill set to teams is already proving effect and supports integrated care.

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.

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

Yours sincerely,



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