



27th May, 2024

Deputy Patrick Costello, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 23320/24, PQ 23321/24

PQ 23320/24_ To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 647 of 30 April 2024, if he is aware that the "relatively new" area of transgender healthcare is over a century old

PQ 23321/24_ To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 647 of 30 April 2024, if the widespread problem of GPs denying blood tests to their transgender patients is considered out of scope for the new model of care being developed by the HSE

Dear Deputy Costello,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead for Children and Young People (NCAGL C&YP) on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Gender healthcare supports people who experience gender incongruence and/or gender dysphoria. Information on the best and safest type of healthcare in this area is currently limited. Emerging and evolving new evidence informs best practice for clinical care. As evidence and knowledge in this area grows, we can expect to see changes in clinical guidance over time, here and in other healthcare systems.

Gender healthcare is a relatively new area of healthcare where one patient's journey may not be the same as another. A GP will treat each patient as an individual and make clinical decisions including ordering relevant blood tests in partnership with patients and on a case by case basis.

In order to support patients and medical practitioners, a new national clinical programme for gender healthcare is being initiated by the HSE. The new HSE gender healthcare programme will design and inform planning for a gender healthcare service and will be based on clinical experience and evidence, respect, inclusiveness and compassion. The National Clinical Lead for this gender healthcare programme is due to take up this role soon

Over the next two years, the programme will work with a range of stakeholders, including GPs, to develop an updated clinical model of care for gender healthcare services for the Irish population. The scope of the model of care will be agreed as part of this work. The model of care will be evidence based where possible and will be developed in a consultative way, engaging with stakeholders, healthcare professionals, including General Practitioners (GPs) and patients, who will be involved in the design of services and advise on the delivery and evaluation of services.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Anne Horgan



General Manager



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