

30 May 2025

Willie O'Dea, TD

Dáil Éireann

Kildare Street

Dublin 2.

PQ 19065/25

To ask the Minister for Health if she will give consideration to providing residential rehab centers, which will allow an addict to stay for treatment for a period of three to six months at minimum; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Dea,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Treatment services for substance use are structured within a 4 Tier Model:

- Tier 1 is comprised of generic services which would include the provision of drug-related information and advice, screening and referral to specialised drug treatment services. They are delivered in general healthcare settings.
- The interventions in Tier 2 are delivered through outreach, primary care, pharmacies, and criminal justice settings as well as by specialist drug treatment services, which are community or hospital-based.
- The interventions at Tier 3 consist of community based specialised drug assessment and co-ordinated, care-planned treatment which may include psychotherapeutic interventions, methadone maintenance, detoxification and day care.
- Tier 4 interventions are provided by specialised and dedicated inpatient or residential units or wards, which provide inpatient detoxification (IPD) or assisted withdrawal and/or stabilisation. Some service users will require inpatient treatment in general psychiatric wards. Acute hospital provision with specialist "addiction" support will be needed for those with complex needs e.g. pregnancy, liver and HIV-related problems. Others will need IPD linked to residential rehabilitation units to ensure seamless care. "Step-down" or halfway house accommodation may be required to be made available as a follow on from residential treatment. These may be situated away from the individual's area of residence and drug-using networks.

The majority of cases requiring intervention or treatment are managed within Tier 2 or Tier 3 services within the community. Service users are offered the least intensive intervention appropriate to their

need when they present for treatment initially and where this does not succeed, more intensive interventions are offered.

The HSE purchases treatment episodes with a number of Tier 4 residential services within different treatment types: detoxification, short stay, long stay and step down. The duration of treatment is dependent on the different treatment type and the length of the programme that a particular service runs. In general detoxification duration is up to 6 weeks, short stay is 4-5 weeks duration, long stay from 10-25 weeks duration, therapeutic communities from 14-36 weeks duration and step down from 12 to 52 weeks duration. It is important to note that a person may avail of more than one treatment type for example detox, then short/long stay and then step down.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Doyle

National Lead, Social Inclusion