



Ruth Coppinger
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

30th April 2025

REF PQ: 20037.25

Dear Ms Coppinger ,

We were asked to comment on a Parliamentary Question directed to the Minister for Health on clinical audit at the National Gender Service.

With respect to clinical practice, we can advise that provision of any clinical intervention (including gender affirming hormone therapy) is based on a fundamental clinical principle that to recommend any clinical intervention the apparent benefits should exceed any apparent risks.

The operational model of care at the National Gender Service is based on a comprehensive multidisciplinary assessment that takes into account all aspects of a person's health and wellbeing over their lifetime, rather than focusing only on gender and gender dysphoria. Similarly, we do not solely focus on occupational function. Social activity, engagement in the world of work, and engagement in the world of education, are all aspects of occupational function.

The focus on psychosocial and occupational function is important as the most common complications of medical transition are a decline in social function, a decline in general wellbeing, and a deterioration in mental health. To reduce the risk of these complications, we must understand a person as a whole person in a social context.

Assessment results in a formulation of risk and benefit that informs a recommendation on clinical interventions such as hormone therapy or surgery that is shared with the patient. An outline of the assessment process is available on our website www.nationalgenderserviceireland.com



We do not recommend prescribing gender affirming hormone therapy in the absence of a comprehensive holistic multidisciplinary assessment, or if after such an assessment, the apparent risks exceed the apparent benefits. If hormone therapy is recommended, then decisions on the form of hormone therapy is made in consultation with the patient.

Within the National Gender Service, audit is undertaken regularly. There is no systematic recording of audits over time in the manner suggested by the question. Audits completed are reviewed within the appropriate clinical forum for review and understanding. Where appropriate, the results of audit are published. More information on audit practice can be found via www.rcpi.ie

We trust the above is useful in answering this query.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Yagoub Gader

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