



Seirbhísí, Meabhairshláinte,  
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Coimpléasc Naomh Bríd, Baile Átha Fhirdia,  
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11<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Erin McGreehan TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 7322/25 - “To ask the Minister for Health to clarify the policy in the psychiatry unit at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda specifically concerning communication with inpatients during their stay and the role of the key nurse assigned daily to a patient; if their role is solely confined to the distribution of medications; and if not, if it is to care for each patient as an individual and their specific care needs”.**

Dear Deputy McGreehan,

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 outlined the position as follows.

In response to your request for clarity, the following is outlined on the role of the key nurse in the Drogheda Department of Psychiatry:

- Provides individualised nursing care and intervention dependent on each service user’s needs. The interventions include assessment, supportive observation, education, medication administration and provision of recreational/therapeutic activities within the unit.
- Assists service users with daily activity living skills. On each day they will provide allocated one to one time with each in-patient to discuss their current mental health needs and care progress.
- Administration of prescribed medication. The key nurse will also monitor the person’s response to medication along with education on medications to each in-patient and their families where required.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

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Martina Lennon,  
General Manager, Mental Health Services, Louth Meath