



Oifig an Chomhairleora Chliniciúil
Náisiúnta agus Ceannaire Grúpa do
Mheabhairshláinte

HSE, Ospidéal an Dr Stevens, Baile Átha
Cliath 8, DO8 W2A8

Office of the National Clinical
Advisor and Group Lead for Mental
Health

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Deputy Tóibín,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Date: 08.07.2025

PQ Number: 35519/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if she is aware of cases in which women have remained on elevated thyroid medication postpartum without review, resulting in serious mental health side effects including depression and suicidal thoughts; and if the HSE has conducted or will conduct any review or audit into such cases. -Peadar Tóibín

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

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.

The National Clinical Lead for Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services has advised that it has not been brought to his attention that there is a lack of awareness among perinatal mental healthcare professionals of the connection between thyroid imbalance and severe postnatal depression or suicidal ideation.

If it was felt that a patient's care was compromised by such a lack of awareness of this issue then this could be investigated by the local service under the HSE "Incident Management Framework" policy which provides a template for investigating and managing adverse patient care incidents that occur during service provision. The learning from these incidents is shared locally with a provision if indicated to share the findings more widely if appropriate including with the National Clinical Programmes.

To date the National Clinical Lead for Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services has advised that he has not received any reports or concerns regarding this issue.

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
Health Service Executive