



Oifig an Chomhairleora Chliniciúil  
Náisiúnta agus Ceannaire Grúpa do  
Mheabhairshláinte

HSE, Ospidéal an Dr Stevens, Baile Átha  
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Office of the National Clinical  
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Deputy Donna McGettigan,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

05<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**PQ Number: 43001/25**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if she will support GPs in providing interim mental health care by offering training and guidance in psychiatric medication management; if she will address standards of communication and responsiveness within perinatal mental health services to ensure vulnerable women are treated with empathy and urgency; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Donna McGettigan**

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Dear Deputy McGettigan,

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 *Model of Care for Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services* provides for a national network of six hub sites and thirteen spoke sites, each supported by multidisciplinary teams. These services work in partnership with maternity hospitals, community mental health teams, primary care, and general practitioners to ensure women have timely access to appropriate care.

General practitioners play a central role in the identification and management of perinatal mental health difficulties. A GP is currently seconded from the Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP) to the National Mental Health Services for two days a week and is a member of the steering group for the refresh of the Model of Care for Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services. Work is ongoing to further strengthen education and training in this area in line with *Sharing the Vision* and the recommendations of the Model of Care.

Communication and responsiveness across services remain a priority. The hub-and-spoke structure supports collaboration between specialist perinatal teams, maternity hospitals, and primary care providers to ensure women are treated with empathy and urgency. As specialist services continue to expand, pathways for referral and communication will be further embedded nationally.

I trust this information is of assistance to you



Yours Sincerely,

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Dr Amir Niazi  
National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health  
Clinical Design and Innovation  
Health Service Executive