



20 June 2025

Deputy Sorca Clarke, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 32917/25

To ask the Minister for Health for a list of recognised asthma centres that specialise in severe asthma that have and do not have a leading Advanced Nurse Practitioner in post

Dear Deputy Clarke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme (NCP) for Respiratory on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Improving the management of patients with asthma and severe asthma remains a priority for the HSE. The National Clinical Programme for Respiratory (COPD & Asthma) was set up to support quality and access to respiratory services for patients living with asthma and includes a subgroup for severe asthma advice. This National Severe Asthma Advisory Group (SAAG), a sub-group of the National Clinical Programme for Respiratory, collaborates with the Access and Integration Drug Management Programme (AIDMP) and the Medicines Management Programme (MMP) to support therapies for severe asthma.

A specialist severe asthma centre is a centre which assesses patients whose asthma remains uncontrolled or is refractory to inhaled asthma therapies and may require escalation to asthma biologic therapy.

There are no nationally designated specialist severe asthma centres in Ireland. It is a whole system approach whereby any respiratory consultant in a hospital can run a severe asthma clinic or service and can refer their patients for therapies that support severe asthma, provided the criteria for the prescription of these therapies are met.

In line with international evidence and practice, the recommendation from the SAAG is that all asthma clinics are multidisciplinary and provide best practice evidence based care.

The implementation of the Asthma Model of Care¹ is being supported by the Enhanced Community Care (ECC) funded model. 30 Chronic Disease Community Specialist Teams are being established in 30 Specialist Ambulatory Care Hubs to provide specialist, multidisciplinary care as close to home as possible. There are a number of clinical nurse specialists and advance nurse practitioners funded by this programme to support the management of asthma, including severe asthma across all hospitals and the community.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Anne Horgan
General Manager

Reference

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/ncpr/asthma/moc/>