



Deputy
Sherlock,

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

17.04.2025

PQ Number: 10161/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the current average wait time for an adult to receive an appointment for an initial ADHD assessment in all IHA areas, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Marie Sherlock

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the ADHD in Adults Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Adult ADHD National Clinical Programme (NCP) started to set up services in 2022 on receipt of new funding from the Department of Health. The NCPs Model of Care stipulates the service must be for adults of all ages. To date seven catchment area specific service have been established. Each has been in receipt of referral numbers several multiples in excess of the predicted numbers pre-pandemic. This reflects international experience and is not unique to Ireland.

In response the Adult ADHD NCP in association with ADHD Ireland, the national voluntary organisation for ADHD, has drafted a document proposing:

1. An additional primary care step to share the burden of referrals.
2. Amendments in the current referral pathway and tighter triaging of referrals (in line with the model of care) to the existing Specialist Adult ADHD Teams. These are being implemented in the most recent service being established in CHO8 and will be replicated in the remaining 4 services being established this year.

An important contribution to the growing waiting lists has been the HSE staff recruitment embargo introduced in December 2023. All seven services have been severely adversely affected by this having at least one vacancy in each service with up to 3 in two (CHO3 and Kerry/West Cork).

This has eased in 2025 with three Senior Psychologists having been recruited, three nursing and one OT post in train and the recruitment of a fulltime permanent consultant for the Kerry/West Cork Service.

WAITING TIMES FOR ASSESSMENT	
Service	Time
CHO1- Sligo/Leitrim/Donegal	30 months. This service has had no senior nurse (CNS) in place for the past 2 years
CHO3- Limerick/ Clare/North Tipperary	12-16 months with young people with ADHD on medication transitioning from CAMHS being seen in 3 months if possible.

CHO4- Kerry/ West Cork	<p>This service closed to all routine referrals in mid-2024 following the retirement of the consultant and resignation of the OT and Psychologist but it is accepting urgent referrals. The CNS post was filled.</p> <p>This year the Senior Psychologist post has been filled. Once a permanent consultant is in post, the service will reopen to referrals. There is a two-day week locum consultant in post who is addressing the existing waiting list and urgent referrals.</p>
CHO4- Cork (City, North and East Cork)	<p>The service is closed for routine referrals since Autumn 2024. The service is concentrating on urgent referrals, its waiting list and seeing adults transferring from CAMHS. Expected to be seen within 18 months.</p>
CHO6- Dublin South East	<p>The local service ceased accepting routine GP referrals in May 2024 because of the long waiting list. It decided to prioritise CAMHS transitions. These are seen in 3-8 months. Where it has capacity, it sees people from its waiting list prioritising those under 25 years or where the referring agent highlights risk. It estimates average waiting time for this list is 30 months.</p>
CHO7- Dublin (South East and West)	<p>This service has only ever seen CAMHS transitions. Like other services it has unfilled vacant posts which has limited its ability to see adults in line with the Model of Care.</p> <p>Waiting time for a CAMHS transition to be seen is 2 months.</p>
CHO8 (midlands) CHO7 (Kildare/ West Wicklow)	<p>This is the service piloting amendments to the current clinical pathway. It sees adults of all ages living in Laois and Offaly.</p> <p>Referrals are being seen within 3 months of being accepted.</p>

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
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Clinical Design and Innovation
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