



Deputy
Sherlock,

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

17.04.2025

PQ Number: 10162/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the average length of time between an initial assessment for ADHD and access to an appointment for therapies and services 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.

ACCESS TO THERAPIES	
Service Access	
CHO1- Sligo/Leitrim/Donegal	The Consultant Psychiatrist provides medication reviews solely as the CNS post is vacant for the past two years. Access to OT and psychology individual and group-therapy as required is available. OT input in Sligo/Leitrim is augmented by access to OT in the Adult Mental Health Teams.

CHO3- Limerick/ Clare/North Tipperary	Medication review provided as requested by consultant and registrar (a doctor). Psychologist provides access to individual and group interventions as required. OT and nursing posts both vacant for 2 years so no access to OT and nursing interventions.
CHO4- Kerry/ West Cork	Consultant (locum) provides medication reviews as required. Psychologist provides an individual intervention as required. No OT or CNS in post so no OT or nursing interventions available.
CHO4- Cork (City, North and East Cork)	Group intervention by OT CNS and psychologist available within 6-8 weeks of completing assessment. Medication review within 2-3 weeks.
CHO6- Dublin South East	Medical and nursing review within one month. OT- 3-6 months. Psychology post was vacant for 2 years- Senior Psychologist in post this year and seeing people promptly.
CHO7- Dublin (South East and West)	Only medical and psychology staff available. Access to both is within weeks as referrals limited to CAMHS transfers.
CHO8 (midlands) CHO7 (Kildare/ West Wicklow)	OT and CNS therapies within 4- 12 weeks. Medication reviews as required.

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