



12th March, 2025

Deputy Paul Murphy, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 10349/25 - To ask the Minister for Health to provide the exact number of children on hormone blockers in Ireland currently

PQ 10351/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children who were referred abroad for gender affirming surgery; and where exactly they are being referred to

PQ 10352/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children being prescribed gender affirming hormones in Ireland

PQ 10353/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults being prescribed gender affirming hormones in Ireland

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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 Advisor and Group Lead for Children and Young People (NCAGL C&YP) and the Gender Healthcare Programme on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

The HSE is committed to building gender healthcare services in Ireland based on experience and clinical evidence, starting with an updated model of care that will include adults. Our goal is to develop a person-centred model of care and develop an integrated gender healthcare service that meets the needs of people in Ireland. Gender healthcare is a new, emerging area of care and evidence for the best and safest type of healthcare in this area is limited, in Ireland and internationally.

Gender incongruence, where gender identity does not correspond to a person's sex at birth, can be common. Some people can also develop gender related distress, commonly referred to as gender dysphoria. There is no clear evidence on the long-term outcomes of treatment for adults with gender related distress.

We know that gender dysphoria interacts with biological, cultural, psychological and social factors, and so the HSE aims to be able to provide a wide range of healthcare services for all gender diverse and gender questioning people, so that all of these needs can be addressed as required. Each person will be assessed on their individual needs. Gender hormone therapy may be part of their care.

The prescribing of gender hormone therapy for an adult is a clinical decision made by the treating endocrinologist, informed by a multi-disciplinary team and including appropriate psychological/ psychiatric input. At this time data systems are not in place to collect information on the prescribing of many medications across the health service. To our knowledge there are at least 750 adults being prescribed gender hormone care in the public health system in Ireland.

We are committed to building a service in Ireland for the Irish population that is based on experience and clinical evidence, respect, inclusiveness and compassion.

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

Anne Horgan
General Manager