



Oifig an Stiúrthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,
An Chéad Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós, Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
Páirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta,
Caladh an Treoigh,
Luimneach.

Office of the Assistant National Director,
National Disability Team,
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park,
Castletroy,

6th May 2025

Deputy Marie Sherlock,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: marie.sherlock@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

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PQ: 11998/25

To ask the Minister for Health the HSE or other health supports that are available to individuals with korsakoff syndrome; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Marie Sherlock

PQ: 11999/25

To ask the Minister for Health to ensure that individuals with korsakoff syndrome can avail of all supports from organisations in receipt of HSE grant funding that support individuals with brain injuries; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Marie Sherlock

Response

Korsakoff Syndrome (also called Korsakoff's amnesic syndrome) is a memory disorder that results from vitamin B1 deficiency and is associated with alcoholism. Korsakoff's syndrome damages nerve cells and supporting cells in the brain and spinal cord, as well as the part of the brain involved with memory.

Alcohol-Related Brain Injury is a complex condition and may be present with a number of other conditions such as depression, anxiety and memory loss. A person with an acquired brain injury will require a different range of care, supports and services depending on the stage of presentation ranging from an earlier stage of the condition to later stages.



Health Services are provided based on the assessed needs of the individual rather than by diagnosis. It is this clinical assessment that determines the appropriate pathway for services, including Primary Care, Disability Services, Older Persons Services and Mental health Services as appropriate to their care needs. This applies to all people who present to Health Services, including individuals with acquired brain injury (ABI).

The list of service provision includes:

- Acute Hospital Services
- Mental Health Services
- Primary Care Services
- Health and Wellbeing Services
- A range of long term assisted living supports, usually contracted by the health service from the non-statutory sector.
- Disability Services including Respite Services, Personal Assistance and Home Support services.
- Advocacy services

These services are provided directly by the health service and a number of non statutory organisations across Disability Services, General Community Services, Acute Hospital Services and Services for Older People.

Accessible Health and Social Care Services

The HSE has a network of access officers located throughout the country across community and acute services to support people with disabilities accessing health and social care services.

Contact details for access officers in the HSE can be found at:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/yourhealthservice/access/accessofficers>.

To support the work of the Access Officers, the HSE published the HSE National Guidelines for Accessible Health and Social Care Services. These Guidelines offer practical guidance to access officers and staff about how they can provide accessible health and social care services. A review is currently underway of these Guidelines to ensure that they reflect the most up to date best practice and legislation with regard to supporting people accessing health and social care service services. The current list of access officers will also be reviewed.

Once the updated guidelines and the review of access officers has been completed, the revised guidelines will be widely disseminated. Revised training will be provided to Access Officers which will include an emphasis on enhancing the skills and competencies of access officers in understanding the supports that people may require when accessing health and social care services.

Advocacy Services

An additional support and service for people with acquired brain injury include advocacy services such as the National Advocacy Services and SAGE. Please see:

<https://advocacy.ie/>

Community Funded Schemes

The Community Funded Schemes is a collective name for all of the many products, supports, supplies, appliances and aids that are provided through community services. There is an extensive range of assistive technology products and services provided to hundreds of thousands of individuals living with a wide variety of different medical conditions or disability, under the CFS.



The HSE currently spends in excess of €250m per annum on these products and services. The scale of the programme is extensive and many thousands of items are provided from community based services across the country. Every PHN, continence advisor, clinical nurse specialist, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, dietician, speech and language therapist, podiatrist and orthotist, who prescribes an appliance, a sip feed, a prosthetic, oxygen or one of the many thousands of items used to support service users in the community, has a role to play in delivery of these extensive services.

The budget for CFS sits within the Primary Care function of the CHO's. Based on satisfying the eligibility criteria, people living with disabilities are like other people living with a broad range of medical conditions, eligible for Medical/surgical aids and appliances that facilitate and/or maintain mobility and/or functional independence. The HSE provides assistive devices to thousands of people with disabilities to enable them to maintain their health, optimise functional ability and to facilitate care in their primary care setting.

Organisations providing support to people with acquired brain injuries

The HSE works in partnership with organisations including Section 38, Section 39, Out of State and For Profit organisations to ensure the best level of service possible is provided to people with a disability, and their families, within the available resources. The majority of specialised disability provision (80%) is delivered through non-statutory sector service providers. The relationship between these providers and the HSE is governed by way of a Service Arrangements (SA) or Grant Aid Agreement (GA) via the Community Healthcare Organisations/ Regional Health Areas. The HSE currently manages 1,045 Service Arrangement or Grant Aid Agreements with an approximate total of 419 organisations.

Organisations which provide services to people affected by an acquired injury, including brain injury, are funded through Disability Services, Primary Care, Mental Health, Health and Wellbeing and Social Inclusion.

Yours Sincerely,

Gerry Tully
Assistant National Director,
Access and Integration,
Adult Disability Services

