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16th May 2025

Deputy Sorcha Clarke,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ Number: 22390/25

Dept. Contact: ePQ Import (phone: ePQ Import, email: Elaine_McKivior@health.gov.ie)

PQ Question: **To ask the Minister for Health the pathway for a person who presents with a dual diagnosis; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Sorcha Clarke**

Dear Deputy Clarke,

The Model of Care for Dual Diagnosis launched in May 2023 describes in detail the different pathways for referral to the Dual Diagnosis services when a person presents with a dual diagnosis. There are separate pathways for Adults and Adolescents, as there are separate Dual Diagnosis teams for Adults and Adolescents, as described in the Model of Care.

In general, service users presenting with Dual Diagnosis will be assessed by the mental health services and/or the HSE Drug & Alcohol services based on their initial place of presentation. Since the Dual Diagnosis services are tertiary level teams, covering a catchment area of around 300,000 or more, their primary remit as described in the Model of Care would be for service users with severe mental illness and co-morbid substance use disorders/behavioural addiction disorders. According to the Model of Care, Community Mental Health Teams, HSE Drug & Alcohol services and Perinatal Mental Health Services can send referrals to the Dual Diagnosis teams for service users with severe mental illness and addiction disorders.

However, for those with less severe mental illness and co-morbid addiction disorder, if the diagnosis for the service user is unclear or if a second opinion is sought, they can be referred to the local Dual Diagnosis team by the Drug & Alcohol services under HSE Social Inclusion and/or the Adult Community Mental Health Teams (in the case of Adults). For adolescents (aged 10 to 17 years), the referral will be from the HSE Drug & Alcohol services and/ or the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Teams to the local Adolescent Dual Diagnosis team.

The role of the Dual Diagnosis teams would be to provide support to the mental health services and the HSE Drug & Alcohol services in addition to managing complex presentations with severe mental illness and co-morbid addiction history. Furthermore, HSE Drug & Alcohol services have been involved in recruiting professionals with experience in mental health, such as Clinical Nurse Specialists in Mental Health, which helps those presenting with Dual Diagnosis to their services.



Additionally, the presence of Addiction Counsellors in some of the mental health teams help enhance the care provided to those presenting with Dual Diagnosis to the mental health teams.

A detailed description of the pathways is available from the Model of Care for Dual Diagnosis through the following link

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/mental-health/dual-diagnosis-ncp/dual-diagnosis-model-of-care.pdf>

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Amir Niazi,
National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health.