



Office of the Assistant National Director
Access and Integration

HSE Mental Health Services,
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Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Cúnta
Rochtain agus Comhtháthú: Seirbhísí
Meabhairshláinte FSS
Ospidéal Naomh Loman
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Deputy Brian Stanley,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

29th of May 2025

PQ Number: 26786/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health to clarify the situation regarding young adults, aged between 16 -17, presenting to A&E and being admitted as an inpatient, if they are treated as a minor or as an adult in relation to mental health issues; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Brian Stanley

Dear Deputy Stanley,

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

As per the 2025 [Liaison Psychiatry Model of Care](#); at present Children aged 16-17 who present at Emergency Departments requiring psychiatric assessment will be seen by the adult Consultant Liaison Psychiatry (CLP) Service. Where there is need for inpatient care, a referral will be made to a Child & Adolescent Mental Health inpatient facility. Children under the age of 16 will be seen by the Pediatric service.

HSE Mental Health Services are committed to age appropriate inpatient mental health treatment and are developing a model of Child & Adolescent Liaison Psychiatry, which will include 16 & 17 year olds. This will be incrementally rolled out across the Country.

There may be occasion when 16 or 17 year old Children are admitted to Adult Mental Health Facilities, but only after all efforts to place them in Child and Adolescent in Patient Units are unsuccessful due to capacity or clinical needs or by considered request of the young person or their family. All admissions of young people under the age of 18 years to adult units are immediately notified to the Mental Health Commission in accordance with regulation. There were only 5 such admissions of 16 and 17 year olds in 2024.

Further information on the Mental Health Commission's Code of Practice can be found at the following link: <https://www.mhcirl.ie/sites/default/files/2021-06/Addendum-to-admission-children-2011.pdf>

I trust this information is of assistance to you,



Yours Sincerely,

Tony McCusker
General Manager
Access and Integration; HSE Mental Health Services