



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

01.07.2025

PQ Number: 28702/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of the full rollout of the self-harm and suicide reduction programme, by measure, in tabular form; and the cost of the full and appropriate provision of SCAN nurses at each emergency department and the number of existing and required nurses, by location. -David Cullinane

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

A Model of Care National Clinical Programme for Self Harm and Suicide related Ideation (NCPSHI) provides a framework to improve services for all who self-harm or present with suicide-related ideation, regardless of where they present. Launched by Minister Butler in February 2022, it outlined in detail the response for people who present to the emergency department including services for children and adolescents with Self-harm and Suicide Related Ideation. The Model of Care ensures that those presenting to the ED receives a compassionate, empathic, validating response, and a therapeutic assessment and intervention from a suitably trained mental health professional. Every effort is made to ensure that a family member or supportive adult is involved in assessment and safety planning, and that they are followed up and linked to appropriate next care. The programme is implemented in 26 emergency departments (ED) with 24 hour service including CHI Tallaght. Since 2013, the programme has funded 49.5 Clinical Nurse Specialists posts. A number of posts were lost as part of Pay and Numbers Strategy (December 2023) resulting in 45.5 WTE CNS funded today. No admin grades have been funded to date. The nurses work as part of Liaison Psychiatry teams when in place.

The MOC (2022) recommends one CNS post per 200 presentations of self-harm to the ED per annum and 0.2 WTE admin support per CNS. This is only approximately 50% of the number or presentations reported to the programme. Based on full year data returns for 2023 an additional 11WTEs at CNS grade (less than 1 WTE has been rounded up to support recruitment) are required and 12 Admin posts (Grade IV). See table below.

Discipline	WTE	Total Cost
CNS	11	€991,915
Admin Grade iv	12	€627,830

While continuing to maintain and further improve the NCP within the acute hospital EDs, the updated NCPSH MOC now extends into the community. An important feature in the Updated MOC is the incorporation of the existing Suicide Crisis Assessment Nurse (SCAN) service within the NCPSH. It will continue to be developed nationally as a collaboration between GPs and specialist mental health professionals, with the aim of delivering a service of similar quality for people who present in suicidal crisis in primary care settings.

Suicide Crisis Assessment Nurse (SCAN) in Primary Care

There are currently 33 SCAN nurse posts funded at CNS grade across 15 counties for adults and 3 services for those under 18 years. The model of care recommends one SCAN practitioner per 75,000 population and 0.2 Consultant Psychiatrist per 300,000 population. Based on a total population of 5.127M (2022 census) this equates to 17 Consultant posts and 68 nurses. At least 17 of the additional nurses posts required should be at Advanced Nurse Practitioner grade (one per 300,000 population) to allow for career progression, supervision at regional level and training and education. 0.2 WTE Admin support is required per nurse, this equates to 4.4WTEs for the current nurses in post and 13.6 WTEs for the remaining nurses to be recruited a total of 18 WTEs.

Discipline	Number WTEs	Total Cost €
CNS	51	4,598,877
ANP	17	1,741,206
Consultant	17	5,407,534
Admin Grade iv	18	941,745
Total	103	€12,689,362

Education and Training Budget- An important pillar of the programme is the provision and facilitation of ongoing education and training opportunities both online and in person. It is estimated that a budget of €15 per year is required. The programme works in collaboration with National Office for Suicide Office and National Suicide Research Foundation to provide ongoing opportunities.

Data – The collection analysis and use of data is a key component. It allows us to plan services and report on service demands both in emergency departments and in Primary Care via SCAN service. A dedicated budget for online data capture tool licence is required along with data analysis tool licence, it is estimated that an annual cost of €40k is required.

Capital- the National Clinical Programme advocates for the provision of an appropriate assessment room in each emergency department in line with Sharing the Vision Recommendation 23. All new emergency department design plans should include this room in line with agreed standards.

Regional Health Area Hospital	Model	CNS per 200 SH	NCPSHI Funded Posts 2025	Additional WTEs required
HSE Dublin and North East				
Beaumont Hospital	Model 4	2.3	2.5	0
The Mater Misericordiae UH	Model 4	2.6	3	0
Cavan General Hospital	Model 3	0.9	1	0
Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown ¹	Model 3	1.3	2	0.7
Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda	Model 3	1.1	1	0.1
Our Lady's Hospital, Navan	Model 3	0.3	1	0
HSE Dublin and South East				
St. Vincent's UH	Model 4	2.7	2	0.7
University Hospital Waterford	Model 4	1.8	1	0.8
University Hospital Tipperary	Model 3	1.1	1	0.1
St. Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny	Model 3	1.5	1	0.5
Wexford General Hospital ²	Model 3	0.9	1	0
HSE Dublin and Midlands				
Tallaght UH ³	Model 4	—	2	0
St. James's Hospital	Model 4	2	2	0
Mullingar Hospital	Model 3	0.5	1	0
Midland Regional Hospital Portlaoise	Model 3	1.5	1	0.5
Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore	Model 3	1	1	0
Naas General Hospital	Model 3	1.9	3	0
HSE South West				
Cork University Hospital	Model 4	2.5	2	0.5
Mercy UH, Cork	Model 3	2.1	2	0.1
University Hospital Kerry	Model 3	0.9	3	0
HSE Mid West				
University Hospital Limerick	Model 4	2	1	1
HSE West and North West				
University Hospital Galway	Model 4	2.3	3	0
Letterkenny UH	Model 3	1.1	3	0
Mayo UH	Model 3	1.1	2	0
Portiuncula UH	Model 3	1.1	1	0.1
Sligo UH	Model 3	1.6	1	0
Children's Health Ireland⁴				
CHI at Tallaght		0.9	1	0
CHI at Crumlin		—		
CHI at Temple Street		—		

¹Connolly Hospital ED returned 6 months of data in 2023 (January to June inclusive)

²WGH ED was closed for 5 months from 1st March 2023 after a fire broke out in the hospital

³Tallaght UH ED did not return data for 2023

⁴CHI are specialised paediatric hospitals (age <16 years)

Further information and associated documents can be assessed at
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/self-harm-suicide-related-ideation/>

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