



Oifig an Chomhairleora Chliniciúil
Náisiúnta agus Ceannaire Grúpa do
Mheabhairshláinte

HSE, Ospidéal an Dr Stevens, Baile Átha
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Deputy Grace Boland,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

8th October 2025

PQ Number: 52380/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the interim measures being put in place to support mothers experiencing severe perinatal mental health difficulties while the dedicated mother and baby unit is under development; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

-Grace Boland

Dear Deputy Boland

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.

The *Model of Care for Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services* provides for a national network of six hub sites and thirteen spoke sites, each supported by multidisciplinary teams. These services provide specialist assessment, treatment and support to women experiencing mental health difficulties during pregnancy and in the postnatal period.

The development of a dedicated Mother and Baby Unit (MBU) at St. Vincent's University Hospital remains a key priority. This unit will allow mothers who require inpatient care to be admitted together with their babies, in line with international best practice. The proposed MBU is included in the HSE's capital planning process and is being progressed in collaboration with HSE Estates and St. Vincent's University Hospital.

In the interim, specialist perinatal mental health services and community mental health teams continue to provide care for women with severe perinatal mental health difficulties. Where inpatient care is required, women are admitted to general approved centres with tailored care arrangements to support ongoing mother-baby contact as clinically appropriate. Perinatal teams also provide consultation, in-reach and liaison support to community and inpatient services to ensure the needs of mothers and infants are appropriately met.

Additional resources have been sought through the Estimates 2026 process, including two consultant psychiatrist posts for Dublin maternity hospitals, to enhance the capacity of existing services pending the establishment of the MBU.



I trust this information is of assistance to you

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Amir Niazi
National Clinical Advisor & Group Lead for Mental Health
Clinical Design and Innovation
Health Service Executive