



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

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7<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Deputy Pauline Tully,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 26978/22 – To ask the Minister for Health if specific funding has been allocated for the community service and support needs of those affected by foetal valproate syndrome as recommended in 2019 by the HSE; if a national co-ordinator has been appointed to oversee the diagnostic, assessment and care planning for those affected by foetal valproate syndrome; if not, the reasons therefor; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**- Pauline Tully**

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Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 26978/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Foetal valproate syndrome (FVS) is a recognised clinical condition either because of the presence of congenital malformations, or a developmental disorder, and diagnostic criteria have been developed to assist in identifying it. Where children or adults have been exposed to valproate in utero, there is concern that they may have FVS, either because of the presence of congenital malformations, or a developmental disorder.

To create additional capacity in the service as part of the project, the HSE established a dedicated FVS diagnostic pathway, prioritising patients where there is a referral with a query of FVS. Once a patient receives a diagnosis of FVS, they are then referred to the community to have access to health services that may be required.

Each of the 9 Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs) have appointed a dedicated liaison officer as a key point of contact to support and coordinate FVS referrals within the CHO. The role of the liaison officer is to receive referrals from the specialist Paediatric Service/Genetics Service to ensure service co-ordination and provision for each individual presenting with a diagnosis of FVS.

Allocation of additional funding is provided to the areas if there is a requirement for services or supports that is not available within the area requested.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Seán McArt'.

**Seán McArt**  
General Manager Primary Care  
National Community Operations