



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin, Baile Phámar,
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Deputy Holly Cairns,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

23rd of February 2024

PQ Number: 52615/23

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children admitted to in-patient services for the treatment of eating disorders from 2022 to date. -Holly Cairns

Dear Deputy Cairns

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.

Eating disorders have the highest mortality and morbidity of all of the mental health conditions (Arcelus, 2011), and it is estimated that they will affect between 1 to 4% of the population at some point in their lives (NIMH, 2016). They are caused by a combination of genetic, biological and psychosocial factors and occur across gender, age, cultural, ethnic and socioeconomic groupings.

National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders

In January 2018, the HSE published a National Model of Care for Eating Disorders (MOC) in partnership with College of Psychiatrists' of Ireland and Bodywhys. In the absence of a pre-existing dedicated eating disorder infrastructure or strategy, this Model of Care document has been developed in order to guide the provision of high quality, accessible and value for money eating disorder services in Ireland across the lifespan. Key recommendations include the development of a national network of dedicated eating disorder teams embedded within the mental health service, a stepped model of outpatient, day patient and inpatient care provision based on clinical need, and the development of a skilled, trained workforce. In the context of the significant physical morbidity associated with eating disorders, this Model of Care also recommends a strong integration between primary care, mental health services and medical teams, including the bridging of the acute hospital and mental health service divide through mutual clinical commitments and shared pathways.

Inpatient Services- Children

Children and adolescents with an eating disorder diagnosis who require inpatient treatment can be referred to one of the CAMHS inpatient approved centers. Referrals are reviewed individually to determine the likely clinical benefits of admission as well as possible other treatment alternatives. There are 4 CAMHS Units across the HSE; Linn Dara Approved Centre, Dublin, St Josephs Approved Centre in Dublin, Eist Linn Approved Centre in Cork and Merlin Park Approved Centre in Galway. Specialist eating disorder beds are available in Merlin Park Galway and Linn Dara AC.



The table below provides a breakdown of admissions for Eating Disorders for each of the four CAMHS Inpatient Units. This includes patients' with a diagnosis of:

- F50.0 Anorexia Nervosa
- F50.1 Atypical Anorexia Nervosa
- F50.2 Bulimia Nervosa
- F50.3 Atypice Bulimia Nervosa
- F50.9 Eating Disorder Unspecified
- Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake

Year	Linn Dara, Dublin	Eist Linn, Cork	Merlin Park, Galway	St. Joseph's Unit, Fairveiw	Total
2023	14	2	20	13	49
2022	18	6	12	11	47
Total	32	8	32	24	96

Further information on the National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders can be found here: [Eating Disorders - HSE.ie](https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/mental-health/eating-disorders/data-infographics/) and here <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/mental-health/eating-disorders/data-infographics/>

I trust this is information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Paul Braham
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National Mental Health Services