



Oifig an Stiúthóra Náisiúnta um Rochtain agus Imeascadh

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Deputy Thomas Pringle, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ No. 28009/24 To ask the Minister for Health the current general systematic plan for pain management of fibromyalgia sufferers; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Pringle,

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.

Response:

Fibromyalgia is a common disorder characterised by widespread pain in the soft tissues (muscles, tendons, etc) around the joints and is commonly associated with symptoms including fatigue, brain fog, poor sleep and mood disorders.

The cause is not fully understood and there are no abnormalities found on blood tests or imaging studies to confirm a diagnosis. The diagnosis is based on clinical examination.

There is no cure for fibromyalgia and the current general systematic plan for fibromyalgia sufferers is to provide treatment to ease symptoms consists mainly of a combination of exercise or other movement therapies (e.g. Physiotherapy), education and psychological support and medications. The diagnosis and treatment can be delivered in primary care though patients may sometimes be referred to secondary care for confirmation of diagnosis by a specialist consultant rheumatologist when the diagnosis is in doubt. Patients may also be referred to secondary care in order to access services such as physiotherapy or psychology or pain management programmes when these are not readily available at primary care level.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Benton

General Manager

Access and Integration