



15th March 2024

Deputy Gino Kenny, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 10168/24

To ask the Minister for Health when and how will puberty blockers and other essential services for trans teenagers be provided by the HSE; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Kenny,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead for Children and Young People (NCAGL C&YP) on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

A new clinical programme for gender healthcare is being initiated within the HSE and will develop an updated clinical model of care for gender healthcare services. The work will be informed by the best evidence-based clinical care for individuals who express gender incongruence or dysphoria. Emerging and evolving international evidence on all aspects of care, including puberty blocking treatment, will be reviewed as part of this work.

At the moment, a small number of children and young people may be prescribed puberty blocking medication following a multidisciplinary specialist review and on a case by case basis. This specialist gender healthcare endocrine service for children and young people is provided by Children's Health Ireland (CHI) up to the age of 16 years of age.

The adult gender service is based in St Columille's Hospital, Loughlinstown, Dublin and provides services for young people over 16 years of age.

The HSE is committed to building a gender healthcare service, based on experience, clinical evidence, respect, inclusiveness and compassion, with the service user at the centre.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Anne Horgan
General Manager

