



Oifig an Chomhairleora Chliniciúil
Náisiúnta agus Ceannaire Grúpa do
Mheabhairshláinte

HSE, Ospidéal an Dr Stevens, Baile Átha
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Office of the National Clinical
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Deputy Cian O'Callaghan,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Date: 24.05.2024

PQ Number: 20290/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he will commit to the delivery of the 20 promised beds for adults with eating disorders; if he will provide data on the numbers of adults seeking medical support for eating disorders over the past five years; the number of those people were provided a bed for eating disorders; the number that were admitted to psychiatric units; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Cian O'Callaghan

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

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.

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. 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
- The development of a skilled, trained workforce

The NCPED aims to establish an ED network (8 adult teams and 8 CAMHS teams) in accordance with the agreed Model of Care 2018. These consultant led multidisciplinary teams provide specialist eating disorder assessment and treatment in the community and are the foundations of delivering quality eating disorder care across the stepped model of care. Today (May 2024) there are 11 NCPED teams at various stages of development across the HSE 5 CAMHS and 6 Adult teams.

Adults who have an eating disorder diagnosis and require inpatient care can be referred to any of the HSE's acute in-patient mental health approved centres around the country. Referrals are reviewed individually to determine the likely clinical benefits of admission as well as possible other treatment alternatives. If in-patient treatment is recommended by a clinician, every effort is made to prioritise

urgent cases. CHO6 St. Vincent’s University Hospital has 3 specialist inpatient psychiatric beds for eating disorders.

In line with Sharing the Vision (StV), the national mental health policy, an expert group was set up to examine Acute Inpatient bed provision (including the NCPED for adult eating disorder beds) and to make recommendations on capacity, reflective of emerging models of care, existing bed resources and future demographic changes, with such recommendations being aligned with Sláintecare. A report on acute bed capacity was produced and presented to the National Implementation and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) for StV.

The HSEs Chief Operations Officer has since established a Capital Planning Group for Mental Health Services, which has been tasked with:

- Identifying and prioritising mental health capital requirements over the next five to ten years based on existing and future service need, and on regulatory requirements.
- Completing a medium and long term strategic mental health capital estates plan aligned to the new RHA structures, which supports the implementation of StV.

In developing the estates plan, the Capital Planning Group has formally accepted the report of the Acute Bed Capacity Expert Group and will be guided by it in its deliberations, while also taking into account emerging models of care, clinical programmes, more flexible approaches to service provision and the broad range of service improvement being driven by Sharing the Vision implementation

Psychiatric Admissions for Adults with Eating Disorders 2018 – 2022 are available via the National Psychiatric In-patient Reporting System (NPIRS), Health Research Board. Admissions represent episodes or events rather than persons. Thus, one person may have several admissions during the course of a year and each admission is recorded separately. The figures include all admissions to both HSE units and private units. Admissions to private units can be instigated directly from primary care without involvement of HSE mental health services.

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
No. of psychiatric admissions	157	138	182	172	210

Medical Admissions for Adults with Eating Disorders 2019 -2023 are available via HIPE. The data provides total discharges from acute hospitals reported to HIPE with a principal diagnosis and/or an additional diagnosis of eating disorders.

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
No. of medical admissions	184	162	158	169	221

A comprehensive data system at patient level is required to provide further information on the patient journey. The NCPED MOC recommends a National Eating Disorder Register and unique patient identifier.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amir Niazi", is placed within a light grey rectangular box.

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