



Oifig an Ceannaire Seirbhíse
Seirbhísí Meabhairshláinte an Mheán Iarthair
Cúram Sláinte Phobail FSS an Mheán Iarthair
Elmhurst
Ospidéal Naomh Iosaef
Sráid Mulgrave
Luimneach
V94 C8DV
Teil: 061 461435/061 461313

Office of Head of Service
HSE Mid-West Community Healthcare
Mid-West Mental Health Services
Elmhurst
St. Joseph's Hospital
Mulgrave Street
Limerick
V94 C8DV
Tel: 061 461435/061 461313

Alan Kelly
1 Summerhill
Nenagh
Tipperary

3 October 2024

PQ ref 36796/24: To ask the Minister for Health the facilities and specialists that a GP can refer a person to in CHO3 in cases in which the person believes they have ADHD and wish to be diagnosed and appropriately treated by a psychiatrist and get access to medication.

Dear Mr Kelly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above representation, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

1. Assessment of adults with ADHD

The HSE Mid West Adult ADHD team has been operational since July 2022. The referral pathway for access to the ADHD Team is through Adult Community Mental Health teams and CAMHS Teams. Adults with symptoms suggestive of ADHD are referred to their local Community Mental Health Team for initial screening. Two ADHD screening assessments are completed. (Adult Self-Report Scale (ASRS) and Wender Utah Rating Scale (WURS)). Therefore, GPs should refer patients with a query of ADHD to their local Community Mental Health Team.

If the screening at the Community Mental Health Team is positive the person is referred to the ADHD Team. These referrals will be discussed at the ADHD Multidisciplinary Team Meeting and if they meet the acceptance criteria will be placed on a waiting list to be further assessed by the ADHD Team. The person will continue to attend their Community Mental Health Team while they are waiting to be seen by the ADHD Team.

2. Treatment of Adults with ADHD

Treatment is multimodal involving a combination of pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions. The treatment will be delivered by mental health professionals trained in the treatment of ADHD.

Treatment includes:

- ADHD specific medication in the ADHD Clinic
- Treatment of co-morbidities – those with severer co-morbidities to be treated by their Adult Community Mental Health Teams before ADHD specific interventions are considered
- Non-pharmacological interventions delivered through the ADHD Clinics ADHD specific cognitive behaviour therapy
- Occupational therapy interventions which are task focused
- Other important interventions recommended and available outside the HSE
- ADHD Ireland for information and support
- ADHD specific coaching
- General wellbeing advice
- Employability service to assist those with difficulties in finding and/or keeping a job.


3. Transition to Adult Services

CAMHS carry out a re-assessment of young people attending CAMHS, one year prior to school leaving age to establish the need for continued treatment into adulthood. Where appropriate, young people with ADHD receiving care and treatment from CAMHS will be transitioned to their local Community Mental Health Team or directly to the ADHD Team depending on their diagnoses. The Community Mental health Team and ADHD Team will discuss each such referral jointly and make a decision on the most appropriate service.

The point of transfer will be 18 years of age unless there is a clinically significant reason to remain in CAMHS.

Joint planning between CAMHS, Community Mental Health Teams and the ADHD Team for this transition starts six months in advance of the transition. A lead clinician in the CAMHS team is appointed to ensure the process runs smoothly.

Yours Sincerely,



Nuala Kelly
Head of Service - Mental Health Service,
Mid-West Community Healthcare