



31st January, 2024

Deputy John Brady, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 1252/25

To ask the Minister for Health to provide details of the current weight management services in operation across the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Brady,

The Health Service Executive 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 Programme (NCP) for Obesity on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Obesity management services for children, young people and adults are currently being implemented across the state in line with the HSE Model of Care for the Management of Overweight and Obesity (2021). The model of care sets out how services should be delivered across different levels, including community and hospital based services.

Community based services for obesity include multidisciplinary services for children and young people and dietitian-led obesity management groups. Services for children and young people have commenced in two primary care locations: Clondalkin (HSE Dublin Midlands Health Region) and Waterford (HSE Dublin and South East Health Region). Each serves the locality and surrounding areas within the region.

New funding in 2025 will expand and build these teams to enable them to see more families and offer a broader range of supports. For adults, obesity self-management and education groups and 1:1 sessions are delivered by dietitians in Chronic Disease Hubs. At present, 60% of chronic disease hubs deliver obesity management programmes.

Specialist obesity services are based in hospitals. Currently, three of these services are operational nationally:

1. Healthy Living at CHI is a specialist service for children and young people based in CHI Temple St and Connolly Hospital Paediatric Unit.
2. St Columcille's Hospital/St Vincent's University Hospital deliver medical and surgical obesity services for adults.
3. An adult bariatric surgery service is operational in Galway University Hospital.

In 2025, new funding will see the establishment of two new specialist adult services in Connolly Hospital and Mallow General Hospital respectively.

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