



Office of the Assistant National Director
Access and Integration

HSE Mental Health Services,
St. Loman's Hospital,
Palmerstown, Dublin 20
D20HK69

Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Cúnta
Rochtain agus Comhtháthú: Seirbhísí
Meabhairshláinte FSS
Ospidéal Naomh Loman
Baile Phámar, Baile Átha Cliath 20
D20HK69

www.hse.ie
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)

e:PQReps.NatMHOPS@hse.ie

Deputy Holly Cairns.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

4th February 2025

PQ Number: 1964/25

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health to provide detail on proposals to increase the number of adults inpatient beds for eating disorder treatments; and to detail where it is expected to place these beds and a timeline for their provision. -Holly Cairns

Dear Deputy Cairns

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.

The HSE has prioritised eating disorder (ED) services as part of its National Clinical Programmes (NCP) which aim to develop high-quality, person-centred, integrated care through a clinician-led, evidence-based approach to service reform.

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.

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 HSE's 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

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 (Aug 2024) there are 11 NCPED teams at various stages of development across the HSE 5 CAMHS and 6 Adult teams. CHO 1 has 2 smaller adult teams in line with geographical and population needs as recommended by the MOC.

Adult Eating Disorder Teams	CAMHS Eating Disorder Teams
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sligo/Leitrim (CHO 1) • Cavan/Monaghan (CHO 1) • Cork (CHO 4) • Kilkenny (CHO 5) • Dublin South East and Wicklow (CHO 6) • North Dublin (CHO 9) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Galway (CHO 2) • CAREDS – Cork (CHO 4) • Dublin South East and Wicklow (CHO 6) • Linn Dara community ED service – South West Dublin and Kildare (CHO 7) • North Dublin (CHO 9)

New Eating Disorders Team: Based on current Model of Care each adult Eating Disorders Team serving a population of 500,000 will require up to 15 WTEs. The current cost to fund the WTEs is just over €1.5M for a new team. 5 additional teams are required costing €7.5M in the following locations : adult team CHO 2, adult and CAMHS teams CHO 3, CAMHS team CHO 5, CAMHS CHO 1.

Funding was received for 5 WTE’s to commence an adult eating disorder team in CHO 7. Primary Notification Numbers are awaited.

Complete existing eating disorders teams to staffing levels outlined in model of care: It is estimated based on returns that the current 11 eating disorders team require an additional 38.5 WTEs. It is estimated that this will cost €3M.

Ring-fenced annual funding for 2 new teams and bringing uplifting existing teams in line with the MOC would deliver required community teams by 2028.

The MOC is due for review to take into account the growth in population at the most recent census 2022. The new HSE Health Regions will impact on teams in CHO1, CHO8 and greater Dublin Areas.

Adult inpatient beds: The Model of Care has estimated the need for an additional 23 adult inpatient beds for adults with an eating disorders. This is a significant capital programme that will need phased funding yearly for the coming years. This bed requirement is part of wider Mental Health HSE capital programme. We are unable to provide an exact figure on the capital cost of this provision along with the clinical staff and training required to deliver care 24/7.



Further information on Eating Disorders can be found here:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/mental-health/eating-disorders/>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony McCusker', written in a cursive style.

Tony McCusker
General Manager
Access and Integration; HSE Mental Health Services