

Sub Committee
on
Mental Health

OPENING STATEMENT

Dr Amir Niazi,
HSE National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead for Mental Health Clinical
Programmes.

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Introduction

Good morning Chairperson and members and thank you for the invitation to meet with the Health Sub-Committee on Mental Health to consider issues relating to perinatal mental health.

I am joined by my colleague:

- Dr. Margo Wrigley, National Clinical Lead for the Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Programme.

In my role as National Clinical Advisor and Group lead, I work with National Leads and Programme Managers for the design and implementation of National Clinical Programmes/Service improvement programmes in Mental Health. Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Programme is one of these programmes. Other Clinical Programmes/Service improvement programmes in Mental Health include,

1. Self-harm in Emergency Departments
2. Early Intervention in Psychosis
3. Eating Disorders in Children and Adults
4. ADHD in Adults
5. Dual Diagnosis
6. Mental Health Services for Children and Adults with intellectual disability
7. Specialist mental health services for Older Persons.

All these programmes have a few common variables.

- They address areas of unmet clinical need.
- Overarching aim to standardize quality evidence based practice across mental health services.

- Early intervention.
- Community Orientation.
- Joint initiatives between the HSE/Training bodies (The College of Psychiatry) and voluntary Organizations.
- Integration with other programmes/non healthcare sectors.

Most mental health service is delivered at primary and secondary care services. Only those patients who require a bespoke specialist response to ensure people have their needs met promptly by skilled mental health professionals are referred to these clinical programmes.

The Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Programme specifically meets the mental health needs of women during pregnancy and up to a year post delivery. The Programme was launched in late 2017 with implementation beginning in 2018.

Dr. Wrigley will briefly describe the services now available for women. Slides have been provided to enable members to see how and where services have been developed and what is being provided.

We will be happy to answer any questions related to perinatal mental health

This concludes my Opening Statement.

Thank you.