



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Deputy Jack Wall, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

6th October 2010

PQ No: 28762/10

* To ask the Minister for Health and Children the number of general practitioners that have undertaken training under the methadone protocol level 1 and 2.

PQ No: 28763/10

* To ask the Minister for Health and Children the number of general practitioners that have undertaken training under the methadone protocol level 1 and 2 in County Kildare.

Dear Deputy Wall,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health and Children for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Methadone is a controlled drug prescribed under the Misuse of Drugs [Supervision of Prescription and Supply of Methadone] Regulation 1998 [SI 225, 1998]. General Practitioners who prescribe methadone are trained to do so as part of the implementation of this Regulation. The ICGP trains and supports participating General Practitioners for HSE.

General Practitioners can train at Level 1 on-line and this will allow them to prescribe methadone to stabilized clients. Level 1 trained General Practitioners are trained at Level 2 to provide clinics for those clients who require stabilization.

Since the introduction of the Methadone Regulation, ICGP have trained 830 General Practitioners at Level 1 and 61 General Practitioners at Level 2. Of these in Kildare a total of 17 General Practitioners were trained at Level 1 and 3 were trained at Level 2. The number of General Practitioners who have undertaken training is 968 but training is not yet completed for some of these.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Liam Keane,
Specialist, Social Inclusion

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