



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

An Oifig Náisiúnta don Chuimsiú
Sóisialta
Rannóg Cúram Príomhúil
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse
Sláinte
Lána an Mhuilinn
Baile Phámar
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National Social Inclusion Office
Primary Care Division
Health Service Executive
Mill Lane
Palmerstown
Dublin 20

2nd August, 2016

Deputy Billy Kelleher
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 24094/16

* To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE Clinical Guidelines for Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST) have been launched

Dear Deputy Kelleher,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position:

Currently services operate from relevant guidelines, such as the UK guidelines 'Drug Misuse and Dependence: UK Guidelines on Clinical Management', the NICE guidelines on Methadone and buprenorphine for the Management of Opioid Dependence, the Eurometh Methadone Guidelines, relevant ICGP Guidelines and the National Drugs Rehabilitation Framework.

As part of these guidelines, the ongoing treatment of an individual involves regular assessment of risk and appropriate responses to any identified risks.

Arising from recommendations in the **Introduction of the Opioid Treatment Protocol** (2010), a **Clinical Guideline for Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST)** is in the final stages of approval within the HSE having been drafted by a Committee comprising of representatives from the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland, the Irish College of General Practitioners, the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, HSE Addiction Service Managers, and the HSE National Social Inclusion Office. These are the first national guidelines on Opioid Substitution Treatment that specifically relate to treatment in HSE clinics and as well as in primary care settings.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a stylized "D".

Joseph Doyle
National Planning Specialist