



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

National Social Inclusion Office
Primary Care Division
Health Service Executive
Mill Lane
Palmerstown
Dublin 20
01 620 1747

2nd July 2015

Deputy Catherine Byrne, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 26741/15

* To ask the Minister for Health the number of drug detox beds that are available in the Dublin area and nationally, which are specifically for pregnant women; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Byrne,

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.

For pregnant Opioid dependent women the recommended approach is for stabilisation on Opioid Substitute Treatment. Detoxification may be inappropriate and may lead to unnecessary risk with the pregnancy. However, detoxification may be provided after the first trimester for those women for whom it is deemed appropriate.

Pregnant women who necessitate detoxification require significant medical input and this is best provided safely in a medically managed Consultant led service such as Cuan Dara (9 specific detoxification beds for Dublin and surrounding area) or St. Michael's Ward, Beaumont (7.5 specific detoxification beds nationally) who prioritise the admission of these women if necessary.

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

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Doyle
National Planning Specialist
Social Inclusion