

CAMHS In-Patient Units

CAMHS inpatient services deliver tertiary level care and treatment to young people with severe and/or complex mental disorders. Inpatient Services are required for children and young people with a range of mental disorders (including depression, psychoses, eating disorders, severe anxiety disorders, emerging personality disorder) associated with significant impairment and / significant risk to themselves or others such that their needs cannot be safely and adequately met in the community by outpatient CAMHS teams.

There are currently 74 (+ 2 high observation) registered beds across four CAMHS inpatient units in Galway, Cork and Dublin. However while we currently have 74 CAMHS beds operationally we never have access to all of these. Nationally there was reduced capacity in CAMHS in-patient units in 2018 and this situation has improved in 2019. However there continue to be a number of factors that impact on capacity of units. Building works in the unit in Cork are on-going temporarily reducing capacity currently. Also complexity of needs of young people for example admission of older teenagers with high risk behaviours in units with vulnerable young people can impact significantly on the functioning of CAMHS in-patient units resulting in bed/unit closures. In addition some young people may require 3:1, 2:1 and 1:1 specials in both inpatient and hospital settings.

Recruitment and retention of staff/consultants in mental health services impacts on capacity of services to meet the needs of the population. On a National and International level the HSE is currently operating recruitment campaigns for Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists. The availability of skilled staff is a significant issue in mental health services where demand outstrips supply in both the national and international contexts and our workforce (particularly younger staff) are availing of employment opportunities outside of Ireland.

Close weekly monitoring at national level of the activity and wait list for in-patient services takes place with on-going engagement with the in-patient units and CHO areas as appropriate.

Vision for Change recommends 100 in-patient beds nationally for all aged 0-18 years, in five units of 20 beds each. The new Children's Hospital due to open in 2021 will have an additional 20 beds. There are also plans for an additional 10 CAMHS Forensic Beds in the New Forensic Hospital due to open in 2020 bringing the total number of inpatient beds for CAMHS to 104.

Table 1 below outlines the catchment areas of inpatient units and a breakdown of the registered beds per unit.

Unit Name	Unit Location	Current Number of Registered beds with MHC	Primary Catchment Area
Eist Linn	Cork – CHO4	20	CHO4 & CHO5
Merlin Park	Galway CHO2	20	CHO1(a) Sligo/Leitrim/Donegal, CHO2, CHO3.
Linn Dara	West Dublin CHO7	24 (22+2 High Obs beds)*	CHO6, CHO7, CHO8(a) Laois/Offaly/Longford/Westmeath.
St.	North Dublin	12	CHO9, CHO1 (b) (Cavan/Monaghan), CHO8(b)

Joseph's	CHO9	(Louth/Meath).
Total		76 (74 beds + 2 high observation beds)

**Only 22 beds are operational at any given time.*

Table 2 below outlines the number of beds filled/unfilled on a weekly basis from the 7th July 2019 to 1sts August 2019

Date	No. of Beds filled	No. of Beds unfilled
01/07/19	51	23
08/07/19	48	26
15/07/19	49	25
29/07/19	47	27