



Géaroibríochtaí  
Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas, An Bóthar  
Míleata Cill Mhaighneann, Baile Átha Cliath 8

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Date: 20/12/2019

Deputy Darragh O'Brien, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ No. 51632/19: To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE ensures compliance with best practice in the purchase of hyperbaric medicine services for patients; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ No 51633/19: To ask the Minister for Health if HSE hospitals refer patients to non-compliant centres for hyperbaric medicine services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy O'Brien,

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 for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

**Response:**

Galway University Hospital has provided HSE hyperbaric medicine services since 1976. A purpose built Hyperbaric Medicine Unit was installed in the main hospital in 2009.

All associated medical devices for the provision of this service are procured through the HPRA and licencing designated as per the Department of Health, Patient Safety (Licensing) Bill in the interests "*to improve patient safety by ensuring that healthcare providers do not operate below the standard set by Ministerial regulations and applied in a consistent and systematic way*", approved by HIQA.

In the event that the HSE compliant service in Galway University Hospital cannot accept a patient, transfer is organised in the first instance to a hospital based facility in Craigavon Area Hospital, run by clinicians, and mirrors the service provided in Galway.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Benton', written over a horizontal line.

**Emma Benton**

**General Manager**

**Acute Operations**