



By email to niamh.smyth@oireachtas.ie

30th May 2019

Ms Niamh Smyth, T.D,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: Parliamentary Question 21254/19 *“To ask the Minister for Health if the case of a person (details supplied) will be reviewed; if an endocrinologist will be provided to Cavan General Hospital for local women in counties Cavan and Monaghan that require these services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. Details Supplied - if you test positive for gestational diabetes in Cavan hospital usually at around the 26 week mark you cannot stay in Cavan. You literally get a phone call to come and collect a brown envelope with notes from reception in Cavan and are told to bring them to Drogheda hospital. Drogheda will ring you with an appointment. As you can imagine it's very stressful to change doctors at this stage in pregnancy and especially those who trusted the consultants in Cavan if they had a complicated pregnancy. I found it awful and I was very stressed out. You feel very alone. And Drogheda is a bigger journey too. I would love to see Cavan getting an endocrinologist who can deal with diabetes in pregnancy I myself wasn't even put on insulin or medication I was diet controlled...so you would imagine Cavan surely could have kept me. I was on progesterone and aspirin too help my pregnancy nothing to do with diabetes ..this was prescribed by dr.hussain so when I went to Drogheda even doctor I met I had to explain everything. It was tiring and repetitive. Also being heavily pregnant and car park in Drogheda so far away I had to get my husband to drive me which meant he missed a few hours off work. It would be great if the lack of this service could be highlighted As people in my own friends and family circle were so surprised One my ward alone there was 2 of us from Cavan and I also met another 2 at clinics. one girl had an hour and a half drive to get there.”*

Dear Deputy Name,

The RCSI Hospital Group 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. Having reviewed the matter, the following outlines the position.

Cavan General Hospital and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda are in the process of agreeing a pathway of care for patients diagnosed with gestational diabetes, whereby non-insulin dependent diabetic patients can be provided their diabetic care in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda and obstetric in Cavan general Hospital.

We trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

June Molloy
Communications Manager
RCSI Hospital Group