Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan
An Ceantar Theas
An Bothar Mileata
Cill Mhaighneann
BÁC 8

Acute Operations
Health Service Executive
Unit 4A - The Dargan
Building
Heuston South Quarter
Military Road
Kilmainham

7th December 2020

Deputy Cathal Crowe
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

_PQ 38432/20_ _To ask the Minister for Health the regulations in place to govern hospitals with regard to visitation for end-of-life patients or similar during the Covid-19 restrictions._

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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

Response:

The HSE policy on hospital visits is set out in its guidance "COVID-19 Guidance on visitations to Inpatient Areas of Acute Hospitals including Children's Hospitals, rehabilitation services and other healthcare settings providing a similar intensity of care" and is available at
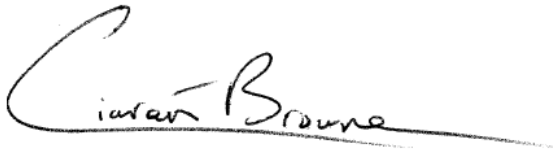https://www.hpsc.ie/az/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/infectionpreventionandcontrolguidance/visitorsvisiting/Guidance%20on%20visitations%20to%20Acute%20Hospitals.pdf

In relation to end of life visits, this guidance specifically states "The duration of the visit may generally be limited to an hour however some flexibility is required on compassionate grounds in exceptional circumstances. In particular for people approaching end of life the greatest possible flexibility is required."

Please also note that our guidance for unscheduled care presentations also allows for adults to accompany a patient at end of life to an Emergency Department to ensure a loved one is with them at all times. For further details please see page 3 of
https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/acute-hospitals-division/covid-19-guidance/unscheduled-care-covid-19-clinical-guidance.pdf

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Ciaran Browne
General Manager
National Acute Operations