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9th December 2020

Deputy Nolan,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 39064/20 To ask the Minister for Health the number of women who attended a hospital in CHO 2 for haemorrhaging or complications after an early medical abortion from 1 January 2019 to date; the number admitted and not admitted, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ Ref 39065/20 To ask the Minister for Health the number of women who attended a hospital in CHO 3 for haemorrhaging or complications after an early medical abortion from 1 January 2019 to date; the number admitted and not admitted, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ Ref 39066/20 To ask the Minister for Health the number of women who attended a hospital in CHO 4 for haemorrhaging or complications after an early medical abortion from 1 January 2019 to date; the number admitted and not admitted, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ Ref 39067/20 To ask the Minister for Health the number of women who attended a hospital in CHO 5 for haemorrhaging or complications after an early medical abortion from 1 January 2019 to date; the number admitted and not admitted, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ Ref 39068/20 To ask the Minister for Health the number of women who attended a hospital in CHO 6 for haemorrhaging or complications after an early medical abortion from 1 January 2019 to date; the number admitted and not admitted, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ Ref 39069/20 To ask the Minister for Health the number of women who attended a hospital in CHO 7 for haemorrhaging or complications after an early medical abortion from 1 January 2019 to date; the number admitted and not admitted, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ Ref 39070/20 To ask the Minister for Health the number of women who attended a hospital in CHO 8 for haemorrhaging or complications after an early medical abortion from 1 January 2019

to date; the number admitted and not admitted, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ Ref 39071/20 To ask the Minister for Health the number of women who attended a hospital in CHO 9 for haemorrhaging or complications after an early medical abortion from 1 January 2019 to date; the number admitted and not admitted, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Nolan,

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.

Data on terminations is collated by the Department of Health via the notifications process. The Minister for Health must prepare a report on the notifications received in a given year, not later than 30 June the following year and lay it before the Houses of the Oireachtas. The annual report for 2019 was laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas on the 30 June 2020 and is a publically available report.

In relation to women accessing post termination of pregnancy care after an early medical abortion, all 19 maternity units are providing such care to women as they present and as required. Common presentations would relate to concerns about failed abortion, persistent bleeding and/or heavy bleeding and management of pain. Not all women presenting to hospitals are admitted nor do all undergo a procedure or intervention.

In relation to the information that you have sought regarding the number of women who attended a hospital for such complications after an early medical abortion across the various CHOs, this information is not available via the national hospital activity recording system. This system is configured such that the woman's episode of care in the hospital if admitted to manage a termination related complication would not capture their earlier and separate episode of care during which an early medical abortion service would have been provided.

As indicated previously, the National Women and Infants Health Programme, working with the Department of Health, is working on developing mechanisms and data collection methods regarding post abortion care for quality assurance purposes. Unfortunately in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic this work has been delayed during the course of 2020, however NWIHP remains committed to same.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



Mary-Jo Biggs, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme