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3rd October 2020

Deputy Murphy,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 32201/20 - To ask the Minister for Health if consideration has been given by him and or the HSE that a national clinical practice guideline for the management of multiple pregnancy will be put out for public consultation in order to give persons and representative organisations an opportunity to put forward their views in relation to what the revised guidelines should look like; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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.

The HSE already has in place a national clinical practice guideline for the management of multiple pregnancy. This guideline, which is available on the HSE website, was developed jointly by the HSE and the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

A process to review and update obstetrics guidelines is currently underway. This work, which will encompass the guideline referred to, will include consideration of both national and international best practices in the relevant clinical care areas, including those developed by NICE.

NWIHP has recently recruited a National Clinical Lead for guideline development so as to drive and lead this important programme of work. They will begin their work later this year.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary-Jo Biggs'.

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