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Deputy Robert Troy TD

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

PQ No. 21367/20

To ask the Minister for Health if it is standard practice in cases in which a patient has an ultrasound carried out in advance of surgery that there would be no record of the date, time and professional that carried out the ultrasound on the report; and if it is also standard practice that there would be no imagery or test results made available to the patient or documented on the patient's clinical records.

Dear Deputy Troy,

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:

All Ultrasound referrals to Radiology Departments are ordered electronically on the National Integrated Medical Imaging System (NIMIS) or for non-NIMIS hospitals through their own Radiology Information System/ Picture Archiving and Communication System (RIS/PACS) systems.

Patients are scanned by Sonographers/Radiologists and images are uploaded to PACS system where they are subsequently reported by Consultant Radiologists.

NIMIS and non-NIMIS systems records the order details, time completed and name of individual who scanned patient, time reported and name of reporting Radiologist and the report details.

In situations whereby Ultrasound is sometimes performed by clinicians as a bedside adjunct to a diagnostic or therapeutic consultation the clinician typically writes comments in the medical record relating to the consultation.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Benton

General Manager

Acute Operations