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29th September 2020

Deputy Murphy
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 23650/20 To ask the Minister for Health the status of the treatment pathway devised for mesh implant survivors; 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 first port of call for a woman seeking information specific to their vaginal mesh implant is back to her primary treating consultant who inserted the implant for clinical assessment and review. Many mesh related complication can be managed by the treating consultant akin to complications that may arise in relation to other surgeries.

Should tertiary care be required for the management of complex mesh complications that cannot be managed at local level, the HSE has supported and funded a National Mesh Complications Service across two sites – Cork University Maternity Hospital and The National Maternity Hospitals. These centres, in addition to providing a surgical service, will be positioned to provide auxiliary services to women in the form of pain medicine services, pelvic floor physiotherapy and psychosexual counselling. The remit of this national service is to provide tertiary support to women with post implant complications, post removal complications and women who will not benefit from additional surgery/removal. Women can be referred to one of the two sites providing this national tertiary service by their treating consultant.

Information regarding pathways of care, and other mesh related information, can be obtained by contacting one of the designated mesh pathways in place. Six of the hospital groups have a designated contact for this purpose, as well as a national contact. This information is publically available on the HSE mesh information page which went live in November 2018: <https://www.hse.ie/vaginalmesh>

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**

