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12th October 2020

Deputy O Snodaigh,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 27171/20** To ask the Minister for Health the number of qualified consultants and surgeons here with the competency to remove vaginal mesh; and the hospitals they are attached to.

Dear Deputy O'Snodaigh,

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 experiencing post mesh complications is back to her primary consultant who inserted the implant for clinical assessment. This primary consultant may be a uro-gynaecologist or a urologist. Many mesh related complications can be managed by the primary consultant akin to complications that may arise in relation to other surgeries.

Should tertiary care be required, including clinically advised full mesh removal, the HSE has funded, as per CMO recommendation, 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 service is to provide equitable, tertiary support to women with post implant complications, post removal complications and women who will not benefit from additional surgery/removal.

Funding for the two Specialist care centres was secured in 2020 and letters of sanction for specific additional posts and resources, have issued. Both centres are actively recruiting the additional personnel approved. It is important to note that both sites have been accepting referrals from the national mesh pathway since it was set up in November 2018.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



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