

June 18<sup>th</sup> 2021

**PQ 21126/21 To ask the Minister for Health if it is HSE policy that partners can attend the 20-week scan given this is not being implemented in University Hospital Galway; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Seán Canney**

Dear Deputy Canney,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you directly in the context of the request for information referenced above, the following outlines the situation.

In line with recent national guidance on visiting restrictions (published on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 - see hpsc.ie), the Maternity Department at University Hospital Galway is currently facilitating the following access for birthing partners/parents from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

- Birthing partners of women in labour are welcome to attend once admitted into single room on the labour ward and partners can attend a caesarean section done under regional anaesthesia. Partners will be subject to screening questions and wearing PPE.
- Partners may visit St Catherine's Ward and St Angela's Ward from 14.00- 15.00 and 19:00-20:00.
- Parents of an infant in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit may visit. One parent at a time and fathers can visit up to 2 hours
- A partner or support person may attend for the Dating scan ( 12 to 13+6 week ) and the anomaly (20 week) scan.

If a partner has COVID-19 symptoms, is awaiting a COVID-19 test or test result or has had a positive test within the last 14 days they must not come to the hospital. In this event an alternative birth partner may attend. Partners must wear a face mask at all times, maintain social distancing and use the available hand gel to clean their hands regularly.

We appreciate the patience shown by families over the past year in supporting us to keep our patients and services safe from COVID-19.

The details of the visiting restrictions in the Maternity Departments are updated regularly on the HSE website at:

<https://www2.hse.ie/services/hospital-service-disruptions/hospital-service-disruptions-covid19.html>

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely



Chris Kane  
General Manager  
Galway University Hospitals