



Clár Sláinte Náisiúnta do Mhná & do Naíonáin  
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21<sup>st</sup> December 2021

Deputy Cullinane,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 60056/21: To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to instances of mesh-injured women who availed of removal services abroad on the understanding they would be reimbursed; if these women will be reimbursed; if they will receive relevant aftercare; the steps he has taken to improve removal and aftercare services in this jurisdiction; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The NWIHP is not aware of any understanding for the HSE to reimburse mesh injured women who availed of removal services abroad.

With regards to aftercare, the NWHIP in 2020 funded a multi-disciplinary National Mesh Complications Service across 2 centres – the NMH and the CUMH, to provide expert specialist care to women requiring mesh removal. This service works in an MDT fashion with a range of medical specialties involved as required including uro-gynaecology, urology and colorectal.

The two sites providing this national mesh complication service have always treated post mesh complications, including full mesh removals, however with this additional investment these centres are now positioned to have clear dedicated MDT treatment pathways for women with post mesh complications. All cases of complications, including post mesh removal complications, will be dealt with appropriately according to individual needs of the patient. The appropriate combination of specialists will be involved in an MDT assessment and management of each patient, including surgery as required. Patients will be supported along their journey with the input of specialist physiotherapists, pain specialist, clinical nurse specialists and psychological counselling as required.

There are now two national mesh administrators in post – one in the NMH and one in the CUMH. A women can be referred to the National Mesh Complications Service by their primary Consultant or GP via the designated email pathway. All information is available on the HSE Vaginal Mesh information page. Information on referral pathways to the Mesh Complications Service was circulated by the National Director of Acute Operations to all Hospital Groups. Additionally the information was shared by the NCAGL for Primary Care to General Practitioners nationally.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



**Mary-Jo Biggs,**

**General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme**