



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

30th December 2021

Deputy Wynne,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

PQ 62756/21

To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide the planned visits by the HSE to the maternity hospitals in relation to compliance and management of maternity restrictions as was committed to in quarter 3 of 2021 to ensure uniformity across all maternity units. -Violet-Anne Wynne

Dear Deputy Wynne,

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.

Response:

Since the onset of the Covid- 19 Pandemic, the HSE AMRIC clinical guidance has been developed to support the safe operation of maternity services. The current guidance sets out that all maternity in-patients should be allowed to nominate one support person and access for that support person should be as flexible as possible and in line with local hospital policy. In circumstances where it is not possible for to comply with the HSE AMRIC guidelines, there is a requirement for the hospital to complete a risk assessment.

The current HSE AMRIC guidance is available via the following link:
<https://www.hpsc.ie/az/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/guidanceforhealthcareworkers/acutehospitalsguidance/Guidance%20on%20Access%20to%20Acute%20Hospitals%20for%20Nominated%20Support%20Partners.pdf>

In order to ensure compliance with HSE AMRIC guidance, Acute Operations has a rigorous oversight process in place with the Hospital Groups involving regular virtual meetings and site visits. A range of issues in relation to compliance, access and complaints (where applicable) are monitored and managed. Since Q3 2021, out of the 19 maternity units, a total of 17 individual site visits have taken place. Meetings have

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan
An Ceantar Theas
An Bothar Mileata
Cill Mhaighneann
BÁC 8

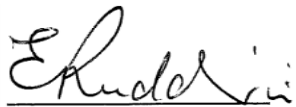
Acute Operations
Health Service
Executive
Unit 4A - The Dargan
Building
Heuston South
Quarter

occurred with all Hospital Groups and it is envisaged that further visits (including re visits if necessary) will be scheduled in 2022.

Acute Operations are reassured that maximum safe access is provided in the context of current clinical guidance. Every effort is being made to provide safe services for the woman, baby and the staff delivering the service notwithstanding the very challenging circumstances due to the Pandemic.

I trust that this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Anderson', written over a horizontal line.

**General Manager
HSE Acute Operations**