



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

04-03-2021

Deputy Colm Burke TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

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
Military Road
Kilmainham
Dublin 8.

PQ 8804/21 To ask the Minister for Health the diagnostic scans and examinations which are currently taking place for cancers, cardiovascular conditions and diabetes in hospitals and medical centres nationally; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Burke,

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 scope and level of detail sought in this PQ is not reported or collected at a National level. Diagnostic scans and examinations performed in Acute Hospitals are broad ranging and for the conditions that you have referred to.

On the 12th January, the Chief Clinical Officer of the HSE issued a memo to the acute hospital system in response to the third wave of the COVID-19 surge. In this memo the following instructions were included.

- Immediate suspension of all elective activity, priority should be emergency access only.
- Escalation in the discharge of patients from acute hospitals.
- Introduction of alternative pathways of care that support admission avoidance, minimise length of stay and facilitate discharge should be used to their fullest extent as should opportunities afforded by the private sector to deliver on time-sensitive services and maximise capacity.
- Services should be re-configured, as appropriate, to facilitate access to unscheduled care in the Model 3 & 4 hospitals.

For the duration of this wave, focus has been on delivering care to support unscheduled, urgent and time-sensitive care in patients with COVID and non-COVID healthcare needs. This includes all aspects of care including diagnostic scans and examinations and delivery has been supported by the Safety Net 2 Agreement with the private hospitals and with increased access to diagnostics in the Community through the GPs.

A Safety Net 2 agreement has been negotiated and agreed with the main private hospital sites in the country. This agreement is governed by an agreed Service Level Arrangement (SLA) signed by each

Private Hospital (PH) and the HSE. The intent is that private hospitals would predominantly be utilised to provide or support the provision of unscheduled, urgent and time critical care to NON-COVID patients albeit, if absolutely necessary, the SLA provides for COVID positive patients to be cared for in private hospitals.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TD' with a horizontal line underneath.

Yours sincerely

Trina Doran
General Manager
Acute Operations