



Clár Sláinte Náisiúnta do Mhná & do Naíonáin
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Aonad 7A, Áras
Dargan, An Ceantar Theas, Baile Átha Cliath 8
T: 076 695 9991

National Women and Infants Health Programme
Health Service Executive, Unit 7A, The Dargan Building,
Heuston South Quarter, Dublin 8
T: 076 695 9991

April 09th 2021

Deputy Canney,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 14668/21: To ask the Minister for Health the training general practitioners and other healthcare workers receive for providing termination of pregnancy services; and if doctors including general practitioners are obliged to have specialised training in counselling as a requirement for providing the service.

Dear Deputy Canney,

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.

All primary care providers receive training by the Irish College of General Practitioner ICGP. There are regular training sessions held for new providers and there are additional update training sessions held for existing providers. These sessions have been held virtually during the pandemic. Specialised training in counselling is not a requirement as counselling for women is not mandatory under the Act. Women are signposted to MyOptions or another external provider if counselling is requested.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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