



**Galway
University
Hospitals**

Ospidéal na h-Ollscoile Gaillimh
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL GALWAY
MERLIN PARK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

**General Manager's Office
University Hospital Galway
Newcastle Road
Galway
Tel: (091) 544200**

June 30th 2021

PQ 24385/21

Re the Consent Form waiver;

'Please note, due to Covid 19 restrictions at this time, it may not be possible to do a complete fetal anomaly scan. There is a requirement that exposure (staff and women) be confined to 15 minutes. It is not possible to guarantee the usual detection/diagnostic rates will apply to this scan, but the sonographer will perform it as best they can, albeit possibly limited in the allocated time.'

To ask the Minister for Health if he will advise on a matter raised in correspondence in relation to care in maternity units (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

The consent form waiver cited was discontinued on 5th May as national COVID guidelines evolved and an updated version without such a waiver is in place. Please see below in relation to the updated guidelines in relation to scanning.

The details of the visiting restrictions in the Maternity Departments are updated regularly on the HSE website at: <https://www2.hse.ie/services/health-service-disruptions/hospital-appointments.html>

Updated Guidelines on Maternity Visiting at UHG in place since June 7th

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

The Maternity Department at University Hospital Galway is currently facilitating the following access for birthing partners/parents, which is in line with recent national guidance on visiting restrictions.

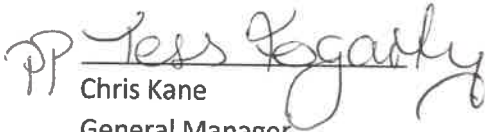
- Birthing partners of women in labour are welcome to attend and partners can attend a caesarean section done under regional anaesthesia. Partners will be subject to screening questions and wearing PPE.

- Partners may visit St Catherine's Ward and St Angela's Ward from 2pm to 3pm and from 7pm to 8pm.
- Parents of an infant in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit may visit, one parent at a time. Fathers can visit for 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.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,


Chris Kane
General Manager
Galway University Hospitals

