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1st July 2021

Deputy Nolan
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 24616/21: To ask the Minister for Health the status of commitments provided by the HSE that it will revise and update the 2015 model of care for neonatology; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Nolan,

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.

It is acknowledged that within the past 6 years since the publication of the Model of Care (MOC) 2015 for Neonatology document there have been many advancements and changes in practices in the area of neonatology i.e. the recently published foetal viability framework for practice document which recommends a change in the threshold of foetal viability from 24+0 weeks to 23+0 weeks gestation.

Work is currently underway by the National Clinical Programme for Paediatrics and Neonatology and the Clinical Lead for Neonatology to revise and update the MOC 2015 document. Progress has been hampered due to Covid-19 and the Cyber Attack because in order to revise the MOC to a high standard, engagement is required with all sites delivering care to neonates to ensure an accurate reflection of current services and thereafter benchmark services. It is anticipated that in Q3 2021 the programme will be able to re-engage with the hospital sites in order to progress the MOC revision.

Changes to care such as the foetal viability document will be captured in the updated MOC document.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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