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16<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Deputy Cairns,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ53366/21: To ask the Minister for Health the status of the revision of the HSE national clinical practice guideline for the management of multiple pregnancy; and if the process will include a public consultation.**

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

An important work-stream of the National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIHP) for 2021 and beyond, is the revision and update of the National Clinical Guidelines for Maternity and Gynaecology services. The HSE National Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Multiple Pregnancy is one of a suite of National Clinical Practice Guidelines which NWIHP is reviewing.

The review of this national clinical practice guideline, which is available on the HSE website, will be completed jointly by the HSE and the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

This work will include consideration of both national and international best practices in the relevant clinical care areas, including those developed by NICE.

NWIHP has recruited a National Clinical Lead for guideline development so as to drive and lead this important programme of work. This Clinical Lead role has been filled as of January 2021, with an initial suite of ten clinical guidelines currently being worked on as part of this action programme. Each guideline being reviewed/updated or created is overseen by a dedicated guideline development group that includes a small team of clinicians and health professionals with expertise in the subject matter.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary-Jo Biggs'.

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