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Deputy Peadar Tóibín

PQ Ref: 58924/21 *To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to instances in which family members of Covid-19-positive hospital in-patients were incorrectly recorded as consenting do not resuscitate orders being placed on their loved ones; when his attention was drawn to same; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

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.

We are not aware of any records of any such instances as outlined in your question.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Health Service Executive provides guidance regarding advance care planning and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) decision-making including making Do Not Attempt Resuscitation (DNAR) decisions (see link below).

The guidance outlines how the role of those close to the person is not to make the final decision regarding CPR or to 'consent' to a DNAR decision, as this authority does not exist under current Irish law. The purpose of those discussions is to help the senior clinical decision maker make the most appropriate decision having regard to the goal and preference of the person. Some DNAR decisions are made in the context of a severe acute illness. Such decisions are kept under review, especially if the person's clinical condition, including their ability to express their own goals and preferences, improves significantly.

I have included a link to the Guidance document for your information

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/qid/other-quality-improvement-programmes/assisteddecisionmaking/hse-guidance-regarding-cpr-and-dnar-decision-making-during-covid-19-v-1-11.pdf>

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction

Yours sincerely,



Margaret Brennan
Assistant National Director
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