



Clár Sláinte Náisiúnta do Mhná & do Naíonáin
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13th October 2021

Deputy Pringle,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ48145/21: To ask the Minister for Health his plans to provide and cover the cost of care for women with pregnancy related conditions such as gestational diabetes under the National Maternity Strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ48146/21: To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE currently covers the cost of care for women with pregnancy related conditions such as gestational diabetes; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Harkin,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Pregnant women attending public maternity services are tested for gestational diabetes based on clinical risk profiling. If a woman is diagnosed with gestational diabetes, under the provisions of the Maternity and Infant Care Scheme these patients may have up to five additional visits to their GP. These expectant mothers will also receive additional monitoring and care management within the public maternity services.

Regarding any medication that may be required to be prescribed for the management of the condition, the costs associated with same would be managed in the normal manner relative to each individual patient's circumstances i.e. medical card holders would not have to pay for the drugs prescribed, whilst non-medical card holders would have to pay.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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

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