



Géaroibríochtaí

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**Date: 30/09/21**

Deputy Francis Noel Duffy TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ No. 41519/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health the guidelines in relation to the frequency with which a patient is updated on their care while being in an accident and emergency department; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Duffy,

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.

**Response:**

There is no overarching single recommendation in relation to the frequency with which a patient is updated on their care while being in an Emergency Department. Given the demand-led nature and the heterogeneity of patient presentations to the ED, in terms of presenting complaint and seriousness of illness or injury, frequency of updates vary greatly from continuous in the case of the most serious patients, to episodic when key events have been scheduled or completed in terms of assessment and treatment, to advice about the waiting time for patients triaged in lower acuity categories.

The Minister for Health launched The Emergency Medicine Early Warning Score (EMEWS) guideline, a monitoring tool that would allow for more structured updates and include patient or carer concern as a trigger to consider the need for escalation of the patient's priority. It is being incrementally rolled out to hospitals.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.



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**Emma Benton**

**General Manager**

**Acute Operations**