



Géaroibríochtaí  
Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas, An Bóthar  
Míleata Cill Mhaighneann, Baile Átha Cliath 8

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**Date: 01/10/2021**

Deputy Violet Anne Wynne TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ No. 44774/21: To ask the Minister for Health if dieticians and or nutritionists are involved in the food provided to patients; if emergent health and nutrition guidelines are taken into consideration; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Violet-Anne Wynne**

**PQ No. 47027/21: To ask the Minister for Health if there are dieticians and nutritionists involved in the food provided to inpatients in hospitals across the State; if emergent health and nutrition guidelines are taken into consideration; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Violet-Anne Wynne**

Dear Deputy Wynne,

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.

**Response:**

HSE Acute Operations has developed a Food, Nutrition and Hydration Policy for Adult Patients in Acute Hospitals. This Policy provides a framework for a standardized approach to food and nutritional care provision by all staff. It encompasses recommendations on nutritional screening and promotes a patient centered approach to delivery of services. It aims to improve the patient's experience of food and nutritional care in hospital.

A toolkit to support local implementation has also been developed to provide guidance to support implement the policy recommendations and to strengthen current food, nutrition and hydration practices. The toolkit has been developed to support all members of the multidisciplinary team to implement the policy recommendations.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Emma Benton".

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**Emma Benton**

**General Manager**

**Acute Operations**