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Date: 14th February 2022

Deputy Mattie McGrath
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 1936/22 To ask the Minister for Health if the automated robotic process used by the HSE to determine vaccine status does not find a match with a particular patient, are they automatically considered to be unvaccinated based on the criteria set out in the latest HSPC report on vaccination status; if it is possible that some patients in ICU listed as unvaccinated were in fact vaccinated; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy McGrath

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

If the automatic process does not find a match between CIDR and COVAX for a particular patient in ICU then other available data are used, such as self-reported vaccination status or vaccination status based on information provided by nursing/medical staff in ICU units-

Patients aged 70 years and older for whom a match could not be made between CIDR and COVAX, or where is no other available vaccination data (self-reported or medical records), are reported as likely vaccinated as they are assumed to be vaccinated due to the very high uptake (~100%) among this age group in Ireland.

Cases are only reported as unvaccinated where:

- vaccination record on COVAX indicate they were vaccinated after being diagnosed with COVID-19;
- they self-reported as not vaccinated during the patient interview or nursing/medical staff in ICU units or from another source reported patient was not vaccinated;
- they received one dose of either a one-dose or two-dose regimen and the epidemiological date is <14 days after receipt of this first dose

ICU cases for whom vaccination status is unknown are reviewed periodically with a view to manually identifying a match within the COVAX system.

If vaccination status cannot be assigned for a patient using all available data sources then vaccination status is reported as unknown.

Due to the surge in omicron cases in late December and early January, the publication of the report *Vaccination status of laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ireland* was paused to assist with prioritisation of resources in order to deal with this surge and to accurately record all reported cases. Publication of the report will resume as soon as possible.

If you require any further information or clarification please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Cuddihy".

Dr John Cuddihy,
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