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11<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Deputy Connolly,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ Ref 37693/22: To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the Iris Clinic initiative by the National Maternity Hospital, which provides much-needed support to patients with hyperemesis gravidarum; his plans to roll-out similar initiatives in other hospitals in Ireland; the analysis that his Department has carried out into the level of unmet need as regards targeted supports for patients with hyperemesis gravidarum; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Connolly,

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.

Women diagnosed with hyperemesis should contact their primary care physician in the first instance. If considered necessary a referral to a maternity hospital is appropriate. Following assessment the woman may be admitted for intravenous fluid administration and on occasion intravenous vitamin administration. Occasionally drug therapy to control vomiting might be indicated. Any drug therapy prescribed in early pregnancy must be weighed against potential harm and potential benefits.

Management of such referrals from GP's is undertaken by all 19 maternity units, with the NMH providing such service in its designated IRIS clinic.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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