



**QPS Géar Oibríochtaí**  
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**24<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

Deputy David Cullinane  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 31671/22 To ask the Minister for Health if a patient has a right to request an MRSA swab upon admission to hospital or prior to a surgical procedure; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

It is the HSE's recommendation that routine universal admission screening for multi-drug resistant organisms, including MRSA is often not practical or appropriate, in accordance with infection prevention and control guidance. Instead, the hospital should assess the level of risk to the person or group of people from that organism and the local epidemiology of the organism, in making a decision about whether to screen, and at what point during admission process or during assessment for surgery that this should be done.

A patient should have the reasonable expectation of discussing their preferences for any investigation with their clinician / clinical team and agreement on any particular course of action. The hospitals are supportive of facilitating these discussions between relevant clinicians and their patients.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

A photograph of a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Therese Dalchan".

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Therese Dalchan  
General Manager  
HCAI AMR Lead | Acute Operations | HSE

CC: Liam Woods, National Director, Acute Operations  
Dr. Eimear Brannigan, AMRIC Clinical Lead  
Shirley Keane, AMRIC Programme Lead