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**3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022**

Deputy Peter Burke T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
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Dublin 2  
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**Re: PQ 24709/22 – Internal cardioverter-defibrillator, St RHM**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the cost of the machine to read an internal cardioverter-defibrillator; and if same will be considered for the Midlands Regional Hospital, Mullingar, County Westmeath**

**Details Supplied: A Constituent who has a defibrillator has to make trips to St. James in Dublin to have a reading which could not be done in Midlands Regional Hospital, Mullingar, County Westmeath by the cardiologist if the equipment was there. He has on two occasions gone in the ambulance from Mullingar to St. James with members of staff which is effectively tying up the essential services for most of a working day.”**

Dear Deputy Burke,

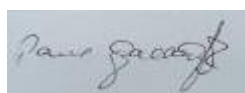
I refer to the above Parliamentary Question seeking an update on an internal cardioverter-defibrillator in Regional Hospital Mullingar (RHM), which has been referred to the Ireland East Hospital Group for direct response.

I have had this matter examined and am advised that the patient care management required for “internal cardioverter-defibrillator” is complex and Regional Hospital Mullingar unfortunately doesn’t have the clinical expertise to manage such patients. One of the reasons behind the creation of a limited number of Centres of Excellence Nationally, is that patient volumes are prioritised and centralised rather than diluted across many hospitals and this is to ensure competency staffing skill levels are maintained to the highest levels.

St James Hospital (SJH) is a Model 4 Hospital and one of the National Centre of Excellence, for delivering complex specialised patient care. SJH has a dedicated team of Consultant Cardiologists operating, completing invasive complex procedures within the Cathlab, which is then followed by patient care plans.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Paul Gallagher



Grúpa Ospidéal  
Oirthear na hÉireann



Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery



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