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Our Ref: CD/LG
14th December 2022

Michael.Ring@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ 57680/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the reason that a health centre unit (details supplied) does not provide x-ray services to the local population for injuries to the body; the person or body that made this decision; the rationale for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. Health Centre/Unit in Ballina, Co. Mayo on the grounds of the hospital [not the primary care centre], Mercy Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo. Can this decision be changed to allow local GPs and GPs in north and west Mayo refer patients who sustained a non-critical injury to obtain x-ray imaging in their locality during business hours? -Michael Ring”

Ballina District Hospital houses plain radiography equipment but does not operate an integrated Minor Injuries Unit. As such there are constraints on the type of trauma/injury cases that can reasonably and safely be accepted for radiographic examination there. Following appropriate clinical assessment, GPs can generally refer minor trauma cases with a low to intermediate probability of fracture and no complicating clinical features to BDH for radiographic assessment.

The plain radiography unit operates on a part-time basis utilising an appointment system. There is no “walk-in” facility available so GPs need to ring in for an urgent appointment as required.

Limb trauma from ankles and wrists distally inclusive can generally be accepted during the hours of operation of the plain radiography unit in BDH. There should be no obvious deformity and no neurovascular compromise on clinical assessment – such cases should be referred to an Emergency Department or Minor Injuries Unit.

Formal radiological reports are generally issued within 24hs and often on a same day basis, but same cannot be guaranteed.

Kind Regards,



Catherine Donohoe
Hospital Manager