



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

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26<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Deputy Catherine Murphy,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 51491/22 – To ask the Minister for Health if he and or the HSE plans to modernise and or update the mental health protocols for public health nurses in the course of engaging mothers of newly born children in the post birth care and follow-up care.**

**- Catherine Murphy**

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Dear Deputy Murphy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 51491/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

There exists a recently developed but yet to be clinically approved national guideline on postnatal care in the public health service. This contains a series of mental health screening questions to screen for depression and anxiety.

The public health nurse will ask all mothers these screening questions. These questions can be repeated at the 3-month assessment and are validated for use up to 12 months post-delivery.

It is expected that the national guideline will be approved before the end of Q4 2022.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Seán McArt**  
General Manager Primary Care  
National Community Operations