



QPS Géar Oibríochtaí

Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas,
An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile Átha Cliath 8

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3rd November 2022

Deputy Gary Gannon
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ: 52040/22

To ask the Minister for Health the conditions which are required for hospitals to ease visiting restrictions which were brought into effect during the Covid-19 pandemic, specifically relating to end-of-life circumstances and childbirth.

PQ: 52039/22

To ask the Minister for Health the hospitals which are still enforcing visiting rules which were brought into effect during the Covid-19 pandemic, specifically relating to end-of-life circumstances and childbirth; and the details of these restrictions in each hospital.

Dear Deputy Gannon,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE appreciate the need for patients to have contact with family and friends whilst in hospital and the impact that having visitors can have to patients' health and wellbeing. Therefore in line with public health advice and information, HSE guidance pertaining to visiting in Acute Hospitals is regularly updated and supports appropriate access for visitors, particularly when it is associated with situations involving end of life care or support during childbirth. The most recent version can be found within "*Acute Hospital Infection Prevention and Control Precautions for Possible or Confirmed COVID-19 in a Pandemic Setting V2.15 22.09.2022*" via the link below.

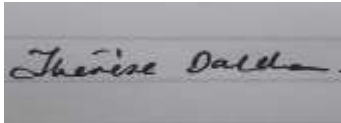
<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/guidanceforhealthcareworkers/acutehospitalguidance/>

Hospitals make every effort to facilitate visiting by relatives and support partners as appropriate and especially to those needing the support of family, friends and support partners during end of life care or maternity care. Hospitals also aim to facilitate patients in situations where they need to be accompanied by a support person or relative whilst

attending an outpatient service or appointment. This is managed within the context of local assessment of risk of transmission of infection at hospital and unit level on a continuous basis. Detailed information on current circumstances in each hospital is available from the individual hospitals.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "Therese Dalchan".

Therese Dalchan, General Manager, AMRIC Lead Acute Operations | HSE

Cc: Ms. Mary Day, National Director Acute Hospital
Dr. Eimear Brannigan, AMRIC, Clinical Lead
Ms. Shirley Keane, AMRIC, Programme Lead