



**Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta  
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8<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Deputy Catherine Murphy

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2.

**PQ 43182/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number and location of hospitals with hyperpolarised xenon magnetic resonance imaging diagnostic facilities**

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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 am advised by the National Clinical Head of Medical Devices that this technique is not in use at present with any of the MRI's located in the HSE funded Acute Hospitals.

I am advised that, hyperpolarised xenon magnetic resonance imaging is a type of MRI diagnostic imaging and is a clinical technique rather than a feature or option on a scanner. I understand that this clinical technique is mostly used in research at the moment rather than routine imaging. This imaging technique requires the patient to breathe in a small quantity of Xenon Gas during their examination allowing the scanner to visualise the gas as it penetrates the lungs, providing much more detail than air alone. Standard air does not react to magnetic fields and just shows up as "black space" on the image produced by the MRI scanner. The Xenon Gas however does react with the magnetic field subsequently providing a lot more information on the scan produced.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

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**Carol Ivory**

**General Manager,**

**Acute Operations**