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Date: 23rd January 2023

PQ-1844/23

Deputy Matt Carthy Dail Eireann Leinster House Kildare Street Dublin 2

To ask the Minister for Health the treatments that are available at the accident and emergency or minor injuries unit at Bantry Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Carthy

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 have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

What injury units can treat

- Injury units can treat:
- broken bones to arms, from collarbone (clavicle) to fingertips

broken bones to legs, from knees to toes

- all sprains and strains
- minor facial injuries
- minor scalds and burns
- wounds, bites, cuts, grazes and scalp lacerations (cuts)
- small abscesses and boils
- splinters and fish hooks
- things stuck in eyes, ears or nose
- minor head injuries (fully-conscious patients, who did not have loss of consciousness or vomit after the head injury)

What injury units may not treat

Adults

Injury units may not treat:

- conditions due to medical illness for example, fever, seizures, headache
- injury causing chest pain, abdominal pain or shortness of breath
- serious head injury
- chest pain
- respiratory conditions
- abdominal (stomach) pain
- gynaecological problems
- neck or back pain
- pregnancy-related conditions
- pelvis or hip fractures
- injuries due to self-harm
- suspected serious injury after an accident
- not being able to walk following a fall from a height or a motor vehicle crash

In these cases, you should attend your nearest emergency department rather than an injury unit.

Children aged 5 and older

Injury units may not treat:

- any child of any age with a medical illness, for example, fever, seizures, respiratory symptom
- non-traumatic limp or non-use of a limb
- injuries following a fall from a height or a motor vehicle crash
- serious head injuries
- abdominal (stomach) pain
- gynaecological problems
- injuries due to self-harm
- neck pain or back pain

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Executive Officer