



Géar Oibríochtaí,

Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas,
An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile
Átha Cliath 8, D08 NN9V

Acute Operations

Unit 4A, The Dargan Building, Heuston
South Quarter, Military Road,
Kilmainham, Dublin 8, D08 NN9V

www.hse.ie
@hselive

t 01 795 9951
e acutehospitals@hse.ie

19th October 2023

Deputy Emer Higgins
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 44733/23 - To ask the Minister for Health if hospitals routinely conduct blood tests for alcohol or drug traces in patients admitted after serious car accidents; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Emer Higgins

Dear Deputy Higgins,

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.

There is no policy to routinely conduct blood tests for alcohol or drug traces in patients admitted after serious car accidents. If attending Gardaí feel that such samples should be taken, a discussion ensues with the doctor responsible for the care of the patient from whom a sample might be taken. In the unlikely event of the taking of such a sample being likely to interfere with the resuscitation on the patient, such permission may not be given.

However, in general, Gardaí will then proceed to call a designated doctor who is working on their behalf, rather than being directly involved in the care of the patient and who is trained in consent in such circumstances and the preservation of the Chain of Evidence in relation to these samples. This doctor will then take the relevant samples in the appropriate fashion.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



**Nessa Lynch
General Manager
Acute Operations**