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An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile  
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19<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Deputy Kathleen Funchion  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

***PQ 8771/24 – To ask the Minister for Health the status of an update for survivors of the vaginal mesh controversy; if a scheme or some level of assistance will be offered to women left in this situation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Kathleen Funchion***

Dear Deputy Funchion,

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.

Complications from a mesh implant are very distressing and painful for those women involved and since the emergence of this matter, the ongoing priority focus for the HSE and Department of Health has been to ensure that all women experiencing mesh related complications receive high quality, multi-disciplinary and patient-centred care.

The HSE and the Department of Health continue to focus on prioritising the care needs of women affected by mesh related complications.

In 2023 the HSE established a National Vaginal Mesh Implant Oversight Group to oversee vaginal mesh implants in our HSE acute hospitals in terms of both primary implant surgery and tertiary complications services. This group reviewed and assessed implementation of the recommendations as set out in the Chief Medical Officer's (CMO's) report 'The Use of Uro-Gynaecological Mesh in Surgical Procedures, 2018' and assessed the appropriateness of resuming uro-gynaecological mesh procedures, cognisant of international developments and approaches in this complex area. The report is currently with the Department of Health for consideration.

The focus for the HSE and the Department of Health remains the full implementation of the CMO's Report on The Use of Uro-Gynaecological Mesh in Surgical Procedures and ensuring that women who require aftercare following mesh complications receive high quality, multi-disciplinary patient centred care in accordance with the evidence and supported by robust clinical governance mechanisms.

The HSE and Department of Health are committed to ensuring women's health services receive consistent expert and focused attention and it is important that both current and future service provision aligns with the needs of patients.



Women are referred to the National Mesh Complications Service by their primary Consultant or GP, or via the designated email pathway. Information on referral pathways to the Mesh Complications Service was circulated by the National Director of Acute Operations to all Hospital Groups. Additionally, the National Clinical Advisory Group Leads (NCAGL) also shared the information for Primary Care to General Practitioners nationally.

These centres have clear dedicated multidisciplinary team (MDT) treatment pathways for women with post mesh complications. Patients are supported along their journey with the input of specialist physiotherapists pain specialists, clinical nurse specialists and psychological counselling, as required.

Further information is available at the HSE and HPRA Vaginal Mesh Implant homepage:

**HSE:**

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/acute-hospitals-division/woman-infants/vaginal-mesh-implants/>

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/acute-hospitals-division/woman-infants/clinical-guidelines/>

**HPRA:**

<https://www.hpra.ie/homepage/medical-devices/special-topics/vaginal-mesh-implants>

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nessa Lynch', written over a horizontal line.

**Nessa Lynch**  
**General Manager**  
**Acute Operations**