

**General Manager's Office
University Hospital Galway
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17th January, 2024 - Update 9th February, 2024

REF: PQ1729/24, PQ 1731/24, PQ 1732/24, PQ 1733/24

RE: PQs relating to the GUH Neo-natal Subgaleal Haemorrhage Review

Dear Deputy Naughten,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you directly in the context of the request for information referenced above.

In response to your query, please see responses below.

PQ 1729/24 To ask the Minister for Health if the independent clinical care review into neo-natal subgaleal haemorrhage in UHG in 2002 will be extended to such incidents which occurred in the years both pre and post 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Denis Naughten

Response: : The review of neonatal subgaleal haemorrhage in 2022 was undertaken because the Management Team in University Hospital Galway (UHG) Maternity services observed through their clinical governance process, that there had been an increase in the incidents of subgaleal haemorrhage of the new-born from previous years. While this increase was well within the reported range in the international literature, the Management Team in UHG decided to undertake an audit of the nine cases. The aim of the audit was to provide insights into trends, root causes, and potential areas of improvement. The audit found that apart from the occurrence of instrumental vaginal delivery, there were no other apparent causative factors. Different Senior Obstetricians were present at all deliveries, including members of the Consultant staff. These infants were admitted to the neonatal unit for observation. None of the infants had hypovolaemia, tachycardia, hypotension or a requirement for blood transfusion, and all were well on discharge. While all of these cases were considered mild, it was impossible to explain this cluster. In addition, the prevalence of this condition may vary with how closely it is examined for. While the audit had not identified any specific issue of concern, a decision was made by the Saolta Group Women's and Children's Clinical Director to seek the assistance of the National Women's and Infant's Health Programme to complete an independent clinical care of all the 9 cases. The incident rate of neonatal subgaleal in the year's pre and post 2022 were below the rates seen in 2022 and reported in the literature. All incidence of neonatal subgaleal haemorrhage are reported as an adverse incident and managed through the UHG quality and patient safety process.

PQ 1731/24 To ask the Minister for Health the reason the views of parents were not sought for the independent clinical care review into neo-natal subgaleal haemorrhage in UHG in 2002; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Denis Naughten

Response: The independent clinical care review was commissioned and conducted in line with the HSE – Incident Management Framework guidance. We can confirm that Open Disclosure with affected families has occurred in line with the HSE Incident Management Framework.

PQ 1732/24 To ask the Minister for Health the follow up that has taken place to review each child whose case was considered in the independent clinical care review into neo-natal subgaleal haemorrhage in UHG in 2002; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Denis Naughten

Response: Each of the infants included in the independent clinical care review were provided follow up as an outpatient with a Neonatal Consultant and continue under the care of their GP.

PQ 1733/24 To ask the Minister for Health if the full medical files of both the infants and mothers concerned in the nine cases were made available to those conducting the independent clinical care review into neo-natal subgaleal haemorrhage in UHG in 2002; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Denis Naughten

Response: Yes. The full case notes for all of the women and the infants concerned in the nine cases were made available to the team conducting the independent clinical care review into neonatal subgaleal haemorrhage in UHG in 2022.

Update 9th February, 2024 - Please note the delay in response as per Forsa Industrial Action which has now been suspended.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Kane
General Manager
Galway University Hospitals