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Deputy Cullinane,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

19/07/2025

PQ 38200/25: To ask the Minister for Health the details of maternity units or hospital which are not deemed to be in full implementation of the Irish maternity early-warning system.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

The Irish Maternity Early Warning System (IMEWS) is a nationally agreed system developed for the early detection of life-threatening illness in pregnancy and the postnatal period. IMEWS should be used for the hospital care of a woman with a confirmed clinical pregnancy and for up to 42 days in the postnatal period. An e-learning education programme was published in tandem and is available on HSELand. IMEWS should be used to complement clinical care and it is not designed to replace clinical judgement. Clinical concern about an individual woman should trigger a call to medical staff, irrespective of the IMEWS.

The last annual report published (2023) – 94.7% compliance with full implementation of IMEWS (maternity units/hospitals), the 2024 annual report is yet to be published.

As of Q1 2025, all 19 maternity units are 100% compliant.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Davinia O'Donnell, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme