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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Pádraig Rice
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
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18th June 2025

PQ29490/25- To ask the Minister for Health if she will conduct a review of the system of clinical directors and if she will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Rice,

Thank you for your representation. As part of the establishment of the regions the HSE have appointed Regional Clinical Directors. As part of the appointment of these roles the intention was that the HSE would review the Clinical Director role and structures.

HIQA's Independent review of governance at Children's Health Ireland in the use of implantable medical devices, including the use of non-CE marked springs in spinal surgery at CHI at Temple Street published in April of this year has a number of recommendations (5 & 6 outlined in appendix 1) for the HSE, which place additional focus on the clarity of the clinical directorate role (R.5) as well as aligned positions, such as clinical specialty leads (R.6). The Chief Clinical Officer has commissioned a working group to oversee the implementation of these recommendations to be completed in Q 4 2025.

I hope this provides you with some assistance.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the Chief Clinical Officer



Appendix 1

<p>Recommendation 5</p> <p>HIQA report</p>	<p>As part of the HSE's current reform of clinical governance arrangements in the establishment of the new Regional Health Areas, the HSE should review the effectiveness of the clinical directorate model, with a focus on the role of the clinical director to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the role is assigned the appropriate level of responsibility and accountability to enable the clinical director to drive high quality, safe and effective care - the role is assigned the appropriate level of authority to effect required change, in particular when things go wrong- the scope of the role is clearly defined with clear and realistic responsibilities, in particular where services span across multiple hospital sites- there is clear guidance and supports in place for clinical directors to carry out their day-to-day functions including performance review, supervisory support and management as well as business and administrative support functions enabling access to and use of information. <p>Arrangements to facilitate close working with other senior executives and the wider hospital consultant body should form a key focus for ongoing enhancement of the role. Such a review should take on board the learnings from this report and have regard for international best practice.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6</p> <p>HIQA Report</p>	<p>The HSE must recognise, develop and formalise the role of clinical specialty leads so that each position holder has both clarity in what is expected of them in fulfilling the position and formal authority for leadership within each specialty, supporting and reporting to the Clinical Director</p>