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Deputy Nolan,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

19/06/2025

PQ 30173/25: To ask the Minister for Health if a periodic audit of outcomes including emergency medical care and ectopic pregnancy diagnosis following medical termination of pregnancy, as recommended in the December 2022 report ‘National Clinical Practice Guideline: Investigation and Management of Complications of Early Termination of Pregnancy’, has been undertaken; if so, if the outcome will be supplied; if not, if such an audit is planned for and when; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Nolan,

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.

A comprehensive programme of work is underway to implement the recommendations from the Independent Review of the Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act. One key recommendation calls for the Department of Health and the HSE to define quality measures and data collection mechanisms for termination of pregnancy services nationally.

The HSE recognises the importance of effective monitoring and evaluation in ensuring high-quality services, identifying trends, and informing service improvements. In response, the National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIHP), in collaboration with the National Perinatal Epidemiological Centre (NPEC), has developed and is piloting a termination of pregnancy (TOP) proforma and associated data collection system, initially focusing on hospital-based services.

To oversee data governance, a TOP Data Governance Group has been established. This group provides guidance on data collection, use, quality, and protection, with representation from all six HSE regions and other key stakeholders.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,
