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21/03/2025

Deputy Connolly,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 10238/25: To ask the Minister for Health for an update regarding the implementation of the maternity model of care for women with epilepsy; when the appointment of clinical posts at each of the maternity hubs will be complete; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Connolly,

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.

With a view to addressing and actively managing the specific needs of women with epilepsy during their maternity care pathway, the HSE's National Women and Infants Health Programme and the HSE's National Epilepsy Clinical Care Programme devised and designed an integrated epilepsy and maternity model of care. This Model of Care was endorsed fully by the HSE's Chief Clinical Officer and the Department of Health.

Subsequent to this endorsement, and as proposed in the Model of Care, investment in the implementation of this model of care has commenced in a phased basis. To date, three additional consultant neurologists and three additional advanced nurse practitioner posts in the area of epilepsy care have been approved and funded across three specific maternity tertiary sites – namely the Rotunda Hospital, the Coombe Hospital and University Limerick Maternity Hospital.

These additional resources will be structured such that the tertiary maternity sites work closely with a designated partner specialist neurology hub service in a general hospital. Recruitment of these additional personnel is on-going with nationally developed job descriptions supporting this process. It is very much hoped by the HSE that these posts will be filled during the course of the current financial year.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

**Mary-Jo Biggs, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme**

