



Clár Sláinte Náisiúnta do Mhná & do Naíonáin
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, An Foirgneamh
Brunel, An Ceantar Theas, Baile Átha Cliath D08 X01F
T: 076 695 9991

National Women and Infants Health Programme
Health Service Executive, The Brunel Building, Heuston
South Quarter, Dublin D08 X01F
T: 076 695 9991

10/04/2025

Deputy Mitchell
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 14712/25: To ask the Minister for Health if maternity hospitals are now routinely checking for the condition vasa praevia during the 20 week fetal scan; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Mitchell,

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 National Women's and Infants Health Programme (NWIHP) for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE in collaboration with the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists published its National Clinical Practice Guideline – The Fetal Anatomy Ultrasound in January 2023.

As set out and recommended in this guideline (Recommendation 15), in cases with identified risk factors for vasa praevia — such as velamentous cord insertion, placental dysmorphism, succenturiate lobes, low-lying or bilobed placentas, multiple pregnancies, and pregnancies conceived through in vitro fertilisation (IVF) — a targeted screening for vasa praevia with Transabdominal Ultrasound (TAUS) colour Doppler is recommended. A Transvaginal Ultrasound (TVUS) is advised if the TAUS results are unclear. Additionally, a consultation with a Fetal Medicine specialist should be sought if vasa praevia is suspected.

The link to the relevant Clinical Practice Guideline is here <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/acute-hospitals-division/woman-infants/clinical-guidelines/the-fetal-anatomy-ultrasound.pdf>

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

MaryJo Biggs, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme