



Cáilíocht Náisiúnta agus Sábháilteacht Othar

Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Cliniciúil

National Quality and Patient Safety

Office of the Chief Clinical Officer

Mr Michael Collins TD
Independent Ireland
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street, Dublin 2
e. michael.collins@oireachtas.ie

25th of April, 2025

Re: PQ ref 9430/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number and severity scale of all incidents recorded in the national incident management system (NIMS) for women who obtained a medical abortion and who were subsequently found to have an ectopic pregnancy, including the NIMS search criteria used; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Collins

I refer to your parliamentary question above which has been referred to HSE Quality and Patient Safety Incident Management for response. I can provide incident data recorded on the National Incident Management System. Incident reporting generally is impacted by a number of factors and is not intended as a data collection point but primarily aids as a system that helps incident management and learning from such events. Please be advised that there are data limitations which include potential duplication of incidents, variance in reporting and data validation, etc.

The data includes only statutory services (including hospitals). The data extracted previously ranged from January 2019 to March 2025. On the current NIMS system there is no one field describing 'termination of pregnancy'. Therefore multiple search terms were used to extract relevant data, followed by a validation exercise to determine whether incidents were directly related to termination procedures. In some cases for example, terminations were carried out as appropriate clinical management, in line with the Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018 and not counted here. The incident data extracted at that time was reviewed for any reference to 'ectopic' and validated by the relevant clinical staff.

I have included the NIMS search in the appendix.

Incident Data Summary:

Total number of Incidents	6 (<5 reported as moderate harm and <5 as negligible)
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I trust this clarifies the matter but please do contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

Lorraine Schwanberg
Assistant National Director
Quality and Patient Safety Incident Management

Appendix

NIMS search criteria:

- Date range 01/01/2019 – 01/03/2025
- Sub-hazard type includes: labour/delivery, diagnosis, surgical/medical procedure, care management, medication
- Word search in sub-hazard description or summary incident description or injury description includes words:
 - TOP
 - T.O.P.
 - STOP
 - S.T.O.P.
 - MTOP
 - M.T.O.P.
 - Termination
 - Medical termination
 - Abortion
- Gender: female
- Validation of incident data undertaken by clinical leads