



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta
Folláine, Comhionannas, Aeráide & Sláinte Dhomhanda
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Seomra 1.51

Urlár 1

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30th May 2025

Naoise Ó Muirí
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

E: naoise.omuirí@oireachtas.ie / CC: PQuestions@hse.ie

Dear Deputy Ó Muirí,

Re: PQ 25754/25

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients admitted to each acute hospital in 2024, where it was known that an EPA, AHCD or Decision-Making Representation Order was in place; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

I refer you to the above representation you submitted in relation to the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015.

I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015 was commenced in April 2023. This legislation allows people to put in place an enduring power of attorney (EPA) or an advance healthcare directive (AHD) when they have capacity to come into force at a time when they lack capacity. If the specific decision isn't included in an EPA or an AHD, then the Court can appoint a decision-making representative, through a decision-making representation order (DMRO), to make specified decisions on behalf of a person.

The Decision Support Service (DSS) maintains a searchable register of certain decision support arrangements - co-decision-making agreements, decision-making representation orders and enduring powers of attorney. They do not keep a searchable register for advance healthcare directives at this time. The HSE may need to access the register to make sure that a decision support arrangement is in place. Information about the DSS register can be found at <https://decisionsupportservice.ie/services/search-register>.

The HSE does not routinely collect data on the numbers of patients admitted to acute hospitals with an EPA, AHD or DMRO at this time. The HSE is currently engaging with the Decision Support Service to ensure healthcare providers including acute hospitals have access to the Decision Support Service Register of decision support arrangements. This will enable staff to most accurately check whether a decision support arrangement is in place.

If you require any further information or clarification please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Caoimhe Gleeson
General Manager
HSE National Office for Human Rights and Equality Policy
Office of the National Director
Wellbeing, Equality, Climate and Global Health