



Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon

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22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2025.

Deputy Martin Daly T.D.,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare St.,  
Dublin 2.

**RE: PQ 44772/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the measures being taken to maintain access to antenatal services for higher risk pregnancies in the areas traditionally served by Portiuncula University Hospital, particularly in rural and socioeconomically disadvantaged communities.**

Dear Deputy Daly,

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:

Risk stratification for maternity patients commences at the point of referral from the GP or at initial presentation. Women are stratified to the appropriate pathway depending on their individual care needs. This may change throughout the pregnancy whereby there may be a potential need for an increased level of care for individual women.

There are well-established pathways in place for referral to specialist services for care and/or opinion within the maternity network in HSE West and North West for higher risk pregnancies. This applies to fetal medicine, maternal medicine, Level 2 neonatal care, and includes both in-utero and ex-utero requirements.

I hope this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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**Ann Cosgrove,**  
Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon,  
HSE West and North West.