



Clár Sláinte Náisiúnta do Mhná & do Naíonáin
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21st November 2023

Deputy Cullinane
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 50018/23: To ask the Minister for Health to list the maternity units who currently offer choice of method to women accessing abortion care under Section 12 of the Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position on the various areas and issues you raised.

The usual standard of care for termination of pregnancy, under section 12 of the Act, is medical termination (M TOP). While surgical termination of pregnancy (S TOP) can be accommodated, if clinically indicated, across the 12 providing sites, it is not available on an elective/choice basis in some of these sites at present. The main reason for this is that the provision of S TOP requires access to theatres, theatre staff, and anaesthetics etc., not all of which are readily available in some units. The table below provides an overview of M TOP and S TOP status in hospital settings as of 1st Nov 2023.

Hospital	M TOP	S TOP
National Maternity Hospital – Holles Street	Y	Y
Midland Regional Hospital, Mullingar	Y	N
Rotunda Hospital	Y	Y
Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda	Y	Y
The Coombe Women & Infants Hospital	Y	Y
University Hospital Galway	Y	Y
Mayo University Hospital	Y	Y
Sligo Regional Hospital	Y	N
University Maternity Hospital Limerick	Y	N
Cork University Maternity Hospital	Y	Y
University Hospital Waterford	Y	N

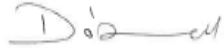
The list of termination of pregnancy hospital providers can be accessed online at:

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/abortion/how-to-get/in-hospital/>

The HSE is committed to the continued expansion of termination of pregnancy services nationally, which includes expanding the availability of the STOP option. We continue to engage at hospital, maternity network and hospital group levels to this end.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



Davinia O'Donnell, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme