



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroibríochtaí

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Date: 21/05/2024

Deputy Johnny Mythen, TD

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

PQ No. 18887/24 & PQ No 18888/24

“To ask the Minister for Health the timeframe for blood tests to be taken on a person that present themselves as a suspected spiked victim; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

“To ask the Minister for Health if there is a protocol to expediate blood tests for patients who have been spiked; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Addendum:

“Thank you for your request, in clinical or hospital settings. Thank you. Johnny Mythen T.D.”

Dear Deputy Mythen,

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.

Response:

The role of the Emergency Department (ED) is to ensure that acutely unwell patients receive the necessary emergency care they require. The purpose of laboratory and toxicology tests in the ED is to assist the treatment of patients who are acutely unwell. The timing of such tests are based on the urgency of the patient's presentation. The ED does not have a role in situations where a victim or potential victim of a spiking incident is not acutely unwell as a result.

Attendance at an ED is therefore unnecessary where a suspected spiking victim feels that they may have sustained such an injury but are feeling well. Such incidents should be reported promptly to An Garda Síochána and advice on the HSE's Spiking page should be followed.

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/spiking/#:~:text=What%20to%20do%20if%20you,of%20staff%20or%20security%20know.>

Blood and other tests for forensic purposes, rather than when clinically indicated, should be taken by a doctor working on behalf of An Garda Síochána. This can be done in a Garda Station if the alleged victim does not need to attend an ED or in the ED if the treating medical staff feel the patient has the capacity to consent to such testing.

Where a victim of such an incident is acutely unwell, the Emergency Services should be accessed in the usual way and such patients will be brought to the ED for further medical management.



I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Emma Benton'.

Emma Benton
General Manager
Acute Operations