

Statement from Tallaght Hospital Regarding Radiology Reports

March 13th 2013

Tallaght Hospital is currently managing an increase in Radiology productivity and a deficit in clerical resources that has caused some delay in the typing of reported x-rays.

There is no risk to patient safety. This is an administrative concern and it is important that its significance is not misunderstood or misrepresented. We have a documented clinical governance process in place for the radiologists (i.e. the doctors who report on the image) which they must follow to ensure that any critical or urgent findings are immediately brought to the attention of the referring doctor and to the clerical staff who then transcribe and send the report immediately.

The Radiology Department, in collaboration with the Diagnostic Directorate and Executive Team, has identified this risk, escalated it and is putting in place a three pronged response.

1. An upgraded approach to demand management involving clinical and technical staff.
2. The implementation of a voice recognition module that will work with the existing PACS system from April 2013 until the implementation of NIMIS in Q1 2014.
3. A reassessment of allocation of necessary clerical resources.

Tallaght Hospital would like to reassure clinicians/ General Practitioners and patients that there is no cause for concern in respect of clinical decision making in the Hospital on foot of this administrative issue.