# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO. 623**

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**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 08)**

**Dr H Chewane (EFF) to ask the Minister of Health:**

(1) (a) What is the procedure of patient referral from a district hospital to a regional hospital and (b) how long does the process take;

(2) why are patients left unattended for a long period before they are transferred from Empilisweni Hospital to Umlawuli Regional Hospital?

###### NW736E

**REPLY:**

1. (a) To refer from a district to a regional hospital involves a consultation and agreement between the doctor at the referring hospital and the referral hospital. This is then firmed through a written referral note that will accompany the patient to the referral hospital.
2. The process is immediate for critical cases and for cold cases appointment can be granted to a six week period;
3. Transfer of a patient will depend on the bed availability at the receiving hospital as well as ambulance availability to execute the transfer.

END.