



Ref: PQ 2075/24

15th February 2024

Deputy Patricia Ryan

Dáil Eireann

Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Ryan

I refer to your below parliamentary question which has been forwarded to me for attention.

PQ 2075/24 – To ask the Minister for Health if he will set out the procedures being taken for efficient effective action to tackle the waiting lists for genetic testing services at Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response:

The Clinical Genetics service, based in Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Crumlin, continues to offer a comprehensive clinical service offering appointments to adults, children, pregnant patients, and their families.

The steps that have been taken to offer patients safe, efficient and effective care, including genetic testing services when appropriate, and manage the clinical workload include:

1. Triage of all referrals in accordance with need as follows:
 - a. urgent to be seen within 2 weeks,
 - b. semi-urgent to be seen within 13 weeks
 - c. non-urgent
 - d. Advice and guidance given by letter minimizing need for a clinic appointment
2. Use of cancer family history questionnaires to help triage effectively and offer appointments and genetic testing to those that would benefit.
3. Increasing use of Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) meetings to improve safe care and timeliness – there are now a number of successfully implemented MDT meetings where clinical cases are discussed (including appropriate genetic testing) with further being explored. These also have the benefit of upskilling and integrating genomic testing into mainstream specialties.
4. Re-establishment of peripheral clinics - now offering in Cork, Galway and Limerick thus enabling access for patients to the clinical genetics service and genetic testing services closer to home. There is ongoing work to establish at least one clinical genetics clinic in each Regional Health Area.

Sláinte Leanaí Éireann



Children's Health Ireland

Sláinte Leanaí Éireann (SLÉ), Herberton, Siúlán San Séamas, Rialto, D08 HP97, Éire
Children's Health Ireland (CHI), Herberton, St James's Walk, Rialto, D08 HP97 Ireland

5. Work to ensure no clinic slots are unfilled including offering short notice cancellations and soon to send reminders by text.
6. Continuing work force planning including looking at new and or innovative roles and making use of additional hours.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Walsh". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Professor Sean Walsh

Clinical Director

Email: clinicaldirector@olchc.ie

Our **Mission** is to: Promote and provide child-centred, research-led and learning informed healthcare, to the highest standards of safety and excellence. We will do this in partnership with each other, with children, young people and their families through a network of children's services in Ireland.

CRA Registered Charity Number (RCN): 20202295 Revenue Charitable Status CHY: 22235

Board Members: Prof James Browne (Chairman), Mr Con Cronin, Ms Mary Cryan, Prof Martin Elliott, Ms Catherine Guy, Dr Anne Kilgallen, Dr Gavin Lavery, Mr Bernard McLoughlin, Ms Brigid McManus, Ms Eleanor O'Neill, Mr Sean Sheehan