

**Children's Health Ireland,
Block A Herberton,
St. James's Walk,
Rialto,
Dublin 8.
Phone: 0766959180**

17th April 2019

Deputy Louise O'Reilly,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 15839/19

"To ask the Minister for Health the wait time for scoliosis surgery at Temple Street Children's University Hospital".

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

I refer to your parliamentary question above to which I have been asked to provide a response.

Children's Health Ireland is working to reduce waiting times for children attending its orthopaedic and scoliosis services with additional investment from the HSE.

Since the allocation of additional HSE funding of €9.3m in 2018 (for both the Children's and Ireland East Hospital Groups), CHI (Children's Health Ireland), formerly CHG (Children's Hospital Group) has implemented prioritised actions from the Scoliosis 10 Point Action Plan ensuring that children, young people and their families are central to the service redesign initiatives. The co-design process of the Action Plan also included engagement with children and young people who experienced scoliosis treatment and services. This was facilitated by the Ombudsman for Children's Office.

The total number of surgeries performed in 2018 was 418 compared with 371 in 2017, an increase of 47. In 2018 there was a 13% increase in the number of spinal surgeries being performed by Children's Health Ireland compared to 2017.

See attached updated on scoliosis related surgeries as at week ending 29th March 2019.

The number of patients on the waiting list for scoliosis related surgeries as of 29th March 2019 (Ex Suspensions*) is 159, of which 83 are waiting for spinal fusion. Overall since the 1st Jan 2018, there has been a decrease of 15 or 15.3% in the waiting list for those waiting for spinal fusion surgeries (Ex suspensions).

The number of children waiting over 4 months for spinal fusion surgeries has also reduced from 35 at the start of 2019 to 31 as of 29th March 2019, which is a reduction of 4 patients or 11.4%.

The number suspensions as at 29th March 2019 is 15 (10 spinal fusions and 5 spinal other) compared to 62 (48 spinal fusion and 14 spinal other) at the start of 2018, which is a reduction of 75.8%.

There has been an additional 60 posts approved, with staff starting at different months in 2018 and 2019. CHI is currently recruiting two additional general orthopaedic consultants which will further reduce waiting times for children for an orthopaedic outpatient appointment.

All patient referrals to the orthopaedic spinal service at CHI are reviewed and clinically prioritised by a consultant. These patients are seen in order of clinical priority. Most patients are seen within 12 months.

An additional 800 OPD appointments were given to patients in CHI at Crumlin in 2018 compared to 2017 which led to a 31% reduction in the overall orthopaedic outpatient waiting list.

While we sincerely regret that any child and their family experience a long waiting time for treatment for scoliosis, the impact of investment and the implementation of the Scoliosis 10 Point Action Plan is now starting to deliver results with a consistent reduction in waiting times being recorded. We will continue to work to reduce waiting times for children and young people attending our orthopaedic and scoliosis services.

* No of patients suspended from the waiting list, as patient is temporarily unavailable or clinically unsuitable for their procedure. This includes all suspensions (hospital or patient initiated)

Please see below, details as at 29th March 2019, which is the most up to date validated data, on the number of spinal fusion patients and other spinal patients waiting less than four months CHI at Temple Street which includes the number waiting four to eight and more than eight months for treatment

Children's Health Ireland @ Temple Street

| Spinal Fusion as at 29th March 2019 | | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|
| | 0-4 Months | 4-8 Months | 8+ Months | TOTAL |
| Active | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| TCI | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Suspended | 0 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Planned | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 10 | 2 | 4 | 16 |

| Other Spinal Procedures as at 29/03/2019 | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|
| | 0-4 Months | 4-8 Months | 8+ Months | Total |
| Active | 6 | 1 | 0 | 7 |
| TCI | 2 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| Suspended | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Planned | 16 | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| Total | 24 | 4 | 2 | 30 |

Yours sincerely,



Joe Gannon
Chief Operations Officer
Children's Health Ireland



Children's Health Ireland (CHI)

Update on Scoliosis Related Surgeries

Published on 1st April 2019



Dedicated Line for Parents
Both Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin and Temple Street Children's University Hospital have a dedicated line in place for parents only to deal with queries in relation to their child's scoliosis care plan.

CHI at Temple Street

Tel: 01 852 2800
Mon - Fri: 9:00am - 12:00 noon

CHI at Crumlin

Tel: 01 409 6877
Mon - Fri: 9:00am - 12:00 noon

Total Surgeries (including single and multiple stages) performed as of 29th March 2019

| Week Ending 15/03/2019 | CHI at Crumlin | CHI at Temple Street | Cappagh Hospital | Total |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Number of Spinal Fusion YTD | 28 | 6 | 7 | 41 |
| Number of Other Spinal Procedures YTD | 32 | 17 | 4 | 53 |
| Total | 60 | 23 | 10 | 94 |

Total number of patients on waiting lists clinically deemed as requiring surgery as of 29th March 2019

| Week Ending 29/03/2019 | Number of patients on waiting list waiting for scoliosis related surgeries Includes active, pre-admit and planned procedures (excluding suspensions*) | |
|------------------------|--|--|
| | Number waiting for Spinal Fusion | Number waiting for other spinal procedures |
| | CHI at Crumlin | 58 |
| CHI at Temple Street | 11 | 28 |
| Cappagh Hospital | 14 | 0 |
| Total | 89 | 68 |

* Suspensions are patients temporarily unavailable due to clinical or family reasons



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