



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

12th December 2019

Deputy Stephen Donnelly,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 50889/19

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of spinal fusion patients waiting less than 4, 4 to 8 and more than 8 months, respectively, in Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin and Temple Street Children's University Hospital to the end of November 2019 or the latest date available; and if he will provide the same information for other spinal patients in tabular form".

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

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

I have attached the newsletter on scoliosis related surgeries as at week ending 7th November 2019 as you requested.

For the period January 2019 to 1st November 2019 CHI at Crumlin have completed 105 spinal fusions with a target set for 120 spinal fusions in 2019 (full year). 20 spinal fusions were performed in CHI at Temple Street and 29 performed in Cappagh.

The number of patients on the waiting list for spinal fusion surgeries as of the 1st November are 82 (excluding suspensions). Overall since the 1st Jan 2019 there has been an increase of 13 patients or 19% on the waiting list for those waiting for spinal fusion surgeries (excluding suspensions)

The number of children waiting over 4 months for spinal fusion surgeries has increased from January 2019 where there were 35 and now at 1st November there are 37, an increase of 2 patients or 6%.

The number suspensions as at 1st November 2019 is 25 for spinal fusion. This figure remains unchanged compared to spinal fusions at the start of 2019, which was also 25 suspensions for spinal fusion.

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

Board Members: Prof James Browne (Chairman), Prof Niamh Brennan, Mr Con Cronin, Ms Mary Cryan, Mr Liam Dowdall, Prof Martin Elliott, Ms Catherine Guy, Dr Anne Kilgallen, Dr Gavin Lavery, Ms Brigid McManus, Mr Turlough O'Sullivan, Mr Sean Sheehan



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As part as an overall investment from National Service Planning money, an additional 60 posts have been approved with some already in post throughout 2018 and 2019. CHI are currently in the process of the final stages of recruiting two additional general orthopaedic consultants. These additional consultant posts (estimate start date in 2020) will further reduce waiting times for children for general orthopaedic outpatient appointment, including scoliosis. These paediatric orthopaedic consultants will form part of Children's Health Ireland's consultant team and will join a cross-city team of paediatric consultants who will deliver services at Crumlin and Temple Street as well as evolving role of the Paediatric Outpatient and Urgent Care Centre at Connolly which is part of the overall vision for a cross city paediatric orthopaedic service in CHI.

It is anticipated that with the appointment of these two posts, at CHI at Crumlin, it will facilitate the spinal surgeons to dedicate more time to spinal patients thus allowing Crumlin to reach the agreed target of 120 spinal fusions for 2019 and decreasing the time that patients have to wait for surgery over 4 months. This will mean CHI at Crumlin performing 3 spinal fusions per week for the remainder of 2019 to meet this target.

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

Waiting Times for scoliosis related surgeries

Please see below, details as at 1st November 2019 on the number of spinal fusion patients and other spinal patients waiting for treatment at CHI Crumlin, CHI Temple Street and Cappagh National Orthopaedic Hospital. The breakdown in the reporting of this data has changed for 0-3 months, 3-6 months etc to the format below.

Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin

Spinal Fusion as at 1 st November 2019								
Crumlin	0-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	12-15 Months	15-18 Months	18+ Months	Total
Active	13	10	9	8	4	3	4	51
TCI	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Suspended	4	5	7	1	0	0	2	19
Planned	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Total	17	16	16	10	4	3	7	73

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Spinal Other as at 1 st November 2019								
Crumlin	0-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	12-15 Months	15-18 Months	18+ Months	Total
Active	12	5	4	2	2	0	1	26
TCI	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Suspended	2	0	3	0	1	2	3	11
Planned	5	6	2	0	0	0	0	13
Total	21	12	9	2	3	2	4	53

Children's Health Ireland at Temple Street

Spinal Fusion as at 1 st November 2019								
Temple Street	0-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	12-15 Months	15-18 Months	18+ Months	Total
Active	9	0	1	2	0	0	0	12
TCI	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	3
Suspended	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	4
Planned	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	11	2	1	3	0	0	2	19

Spinal Other as at 1 st November 2019								
Temple Street	0-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	12-15 Months	15-18 Months	18+ Months	Total
Active	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	6
TCI	1	5	0	1	0	0	0	7
Suspended	0	1	2	2	0	0	1	6
Planned	15	0	1	0	0	0	0	16
Total	19	7	5	3	0	0	1	35

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Cappagh National Orthopaedic Hospital

Spinal Fusion as at 1 st November 2019								
Cappagh	0-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	12-15 Months	15-18 Months	18+ Months	Total
Active	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
TCI	6	5	0	1	0	0	0	12
Suspended	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Planned	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	8	5	0	1	0	1	1	16

Yours sincerely,

Joe Gannon
Chief Operations Officer
Children's Health Ireland
Email: coo@nchg.ie

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Total Surgeries (including single and multiple stages) performed as of 08th November 2019

Week Ending 08/11/2019	CHI at Crumlin	CHI at Temple Street	Cappagh Hospital	Total
Number of Spinal Fusion YTD	107	20	31	158
Number of Other Spinal Procedures YTD	95	59	13	167
Total	202	79	44	325

Total number of patients on waiting lists clinically deemed as requiring surgery as of 8th November

Week Ending 08/11/2019	Number of patients on waiting list waiting for scoliosis related surgery	
	Includes active, pre-admit and planned procedures (excluding suspensions*)	
	Number waiting for Spinal Fusion	Number waiting for other spinal procedures
CHI at Crumlin	48	43
CHI at Temple Street	16	29
Cappagh Hospital	12	0
Total	76	72

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

CHI

Tel: 01 494 2000
Mon – Fri: 9am – 5pm

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