



Children's Health Ireland

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

2nd October 2019

Deputy Gino Kenny,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 39699/19

"To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to an increase in the number of children presenting with symptoms that fit a diagnosis of ME and the lack of paediatric professionals with knowledge of the way in which to diagnose, manage and treat the condition in children; his plans to address the matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter".

Dear Deputy Kenny,

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

I wish to advise you that there is no single service for ME/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) within Children's Health Ireland (CHI). Patients may be referred by their GP, depending on their manner of presentation, for treatment and care in one of the children's hospitals at Crumlin, Temple Street or Tallaght through a variety of subspecialties for example general paediatrics, psychiatry, adolescent medicine, neurology and endocrinology. The diagnosis for ME/CFS is one by exclusion, recognised diagnostic criteria are used.

A therapeutic alliance is required between the treating clinicians, the patient and their family. In addition to clinical input, the following health and social care professionals may be involved in an individual patient's care and treatment plan; physiotherapy, dietetics, psychology and occupational therapy.

Patients with ME/CFS rarely require prolonged admission to one of the children's hospitals as most of their care can be provided in the community.

Therefore, if you further additional information on services provided in the community for children presenting with symptoms that may indicate ME, you may wish to contact the HSE directly. I understand that the Faculty of Paediatrics at the Royal College of Physicians, Ireland (RCPI) may have professional guidance on the diagnostic criteria required for ME/CFS, therefore you may also wish to contact them through their Head of Public Affairs and Advocacy, Siobhan Creaton, her contact details are email.siobhancreaton@rcpi.ie

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Gannon
Chief Operations Officer
Email: coo@nchg.ie

Mission – To promote and provide child-centered, research-led and learning informed healthcare, to the highest standards of safety and excellence. We 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

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