



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

8th October 2019

Deputy Catherine Martin,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**PQ 39182/19**

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of paediatric consultants employed by the HSE that specialise in the treatment of patients with ME; his plans to include ME on the long-term illness scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter".

Dear Deputy Martin,

I refer to the first part of your PQ above to which I have been asked to provide a response on behalf of Children's Health Ireland. The second element of your question around long term illness (LTI) card will be answered by the Department of Health.

There are no paediatric consultants employed across the CHI sites who specialise in the treatment of patients with ME/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. 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.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

**Joe Gannon**  
**Chief Operations Officer**  
**Children's Health Ireland**  
**Email: [coo@nchg.ie](mailto: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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