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Oifig Ceann na n-Oibríochtaí, Cúraim Phríomhúil,Oibríochtaí Pobail
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens' Baile Atha Cliath 8, DO8 W2A8

John McGuinness TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

17th September 2020

PQ 22464/20

"To ask the Minister for Health the supports available for trachi vented children; if rehabilitation care is available; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -John McGuinness"

Dear Deputy McGuinness,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 21589/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The Health Service Executive provides Paediatric Home Care Packages (PHCP) which are intensive packages of care put in place to support the discharge of seriously ill children from acute hospital services into the care of their families. Advances in technology, research and children's healthcare have led to the survival of greater numbers of children with complex healthcare needs (CCHN) who are cared for in their home. In 2020 from January to August a total of 43 new PHCP packages were put in place.

In 2019 a study was undertaken which quantified that 35% of children in receipt of a PHCP package of care had respiratory nursing needs including a number of children with a self-ventilating tracheostomy. The study also noted that a number of children who had a tracheostomy had been weaned off ventilation in the hospital setting prior to discharge to home under the care of a PHCP package. The HSE has engaged with the childrens hospitals to explore a more integrated approach, not only in respect of discharge planning, but also in terms of the care reviews for children in both the hospital and community settings.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Siobhán Mc Ardle
Head of Operations: Primary Care
Community Operations