



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 March 2021

Deputy Carol Nolan,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 8881/21

"To ask the Minister for Health if he will establish the position of the HSE with respect to the reversibility of hormone suppressants and puberty-blocking medication for children under 16 years of age considering gender reassignment; and if he will make a statement on the matter".

Dear Deputy Nolan,

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

Pubertal blocker therapy is reversible and occasionally has to be given more frequently than every 12 weeks to maintain adequate suppression of puberty in treatment of gender incongruence or in young children with precocious puberty. Once the blockers are stopped, the natural puberty returns quickly and completely and the individual will progress through normal puberty to achieve normal fertility.

With prolonged postponement of puberty is a decrease in acquired bone density; a risk factor for osteoporosis in later life. That is one of the reason why cross sex hormones are introduced at 16 years or over to induce puberty congruent with the individual.

Yours sincerely,

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