

29th April 2021

Deputy Roisin Shortall,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 17632/21

"To ask the Minister for Health if multidisciplinary teams will be provided to patients with spina bifida and hydrocephalus in the new children's hospital; the steps he is taking to ensure all children with spina bifida and hydrocephalus receive the same level of services in both CHI Temple Street and CHI Crumlin presently; and if he will make a statement on the matter".

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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

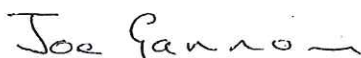
All children in Ireland with Spina Bifida will access the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) in the new children's hospital when it opens as part of the new paediatric model of healthcare services across Ireland.

Currently all newborn babies in Ireland who are diagnosed with spina bifida are transferred to CHI at Temple Street soon after birth for neurosurgery and input from the spina bifida team during their in-patient stay.

The monthly MDT clinic in CHI Temple Street is based around a child-focused enablement approach to disability. Patients see the clinicians on the same day allowing for a shared and collaborative approach to care.

Surgical services in CHI at Crumlin are delivered in separate surgical clinics. They deliver care to children known there since birth – children born before the Neurosurgical Services were established in 2008.

Yours sincerely,



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