



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

Our Ref: PQ 31380/22

13th July 2022

Deputy Alan Farrell
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Farrell

I refer to your recent PQ which has been forwarded to me for attention.

PQ: To ask the Minister for Health the current average turnaround times for breast cancer gene laboratory results for patients once reviewed in clinic and who are at risk of carrying the BRCA genes; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Childrens Health Ireland (CHI) Response:

I have followed up with Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Crumlin. I can advise that the current turnaround times for breast cancer gene testing for patients seen by the cancer genetics clinic in the Department of Clinical Genetics at CHI at Crumlin varies according to the clinical scenario. Every effort is made to prioritise samples based on clinical need.

Diagnostic genetic testing is available for patients who have a BRCA gene-related cancer and a risk of carrying a mutation in one of the BRCA genes based on their personal or family history. Where the result of genetic testing will not have an immediate impact on clinical management, the average turnaround time is 12 weeks. Where the result will have an immediate impact on clinical management, urgent genetic testing is available with an average turnaround time of 6-10 weeks, or 3-4 weeks if performed by a commercial company.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Joe Gannon
Chief Operations Officer
Email: joe.gannon@nchg.ie