



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 31381/22

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 predictive BRCA patients once reviewed in clinic; 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 and can advise that predictive genetic testing is available for patients who do not have cancer, but who are at risk of carrying a BRCA gene mutation identified in the family. Predictive tests are performed with faster turnaround times than diagnostic tests because the result will have an immediate clinical impact if the patient is found to carry the mutation, and the result will provide immediate reassurance if they do not. Faster turnaround times are possible because the analysis is less complex than for diagnostic tests. The average turnaround time for predictive testing is 8 weeks. A faster turnaround time, with an average turnaround time of 4 weeks is also available if required.

Please note, this data only reflects the clinical activity of the Department of Clinical Genetics at Children's Health Ireland. We are aware that our colleagues in the cancer genetics service in St James's Hospital send samples for breast cancer gene testing to a US laboratory provider, but we don't have information on the turnaround times. We are also aware that breast cancer gene testing is also carried out for therapeutic purposes by the Cancer Molecular Diagnostic laboratory in St James's Hospital, and Beaumont Hospital, but are not aware of their turnaround times.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.



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Yours sincerely

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Our **Mission** is to: Promote and provide child-centred, research-led and learning informed healthcare, to the highest standards of safety and excellence. We will do this in partnership with each other, with children, young people and their families through a network of children's services in Ireland.
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