



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

OFFICE OF THE CEO
SOUTH / SOUTH WEST HOSPITAL GROUP
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4th July 2022.

Deputy Brendan Griffin,
Castlemaine Village,
Castlemaine,
Co. Kerry

PQ Ref 31538/22

****To ask the Minister for Health if he will review the situation whereby children with cancer from County Kerry must regularly travel very long distances to Cork and Dublin for less specialised cancer treatment such as blood tests and chemotherapy management; if he will review the situation with a view to putting in place a system in which localised services will be made available for the less medically complex elements of the management of childhood cancer; and if he will make a statement on the matter****

- **Brendan Griffin**

Dear Deputy Griffin,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. We have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

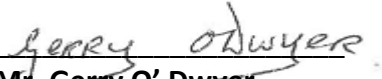
In line with the National Cancer Strategy, University Hospital Kerry implements a 'hub and spoke' model of paediatric cancer care in conjunction with tertiary centres such as Cork University Hospital (adults) and Children's Hospital Ireland, Crumlin (CHI) and Mercy University Hospital (MUH) Cork.

Due to the very specialist nature of paediatric oncology, smaller numbers and specialist equipment, current national pathways dictate that paediatric oncology be co-ordinated through CHI and that acute general hospitals with paediatric services act as 'spokes' or supports to the two main CHI 'hubs'.

Additionally, supports for travel are provided by the 'Bumbulance service' which provides free transport to CHI Crumlin and CUH. The hospital social workers also assist in seeking grants to support travel and assistance.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,


Mr. Gerry O' Dwyer
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South/South West Hospital Group
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