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An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta  
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6<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Deputy Jennifer Whitmore  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ45452-**

***To ask the Minister for Health the reason that ambulances cannot transfer medically complex children to hospitals for appointments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Jennifer Whitmore***

Dear Deputy Whitmore,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) National Ambulance Service (NAS) 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.

The National Ambulance Service provide inter-hospital emergency transfers for children when requested by the hospital system. The National Ambulance Service does not provide non-emergency transport for OPD appointments as we must prioritise emergency transfers.

In order to ensure that these patients attend their important appointments hospitals make alternative transport arrangements that ensure the patient arrives at their appointment within the designated time and therefore do not miss their appointment and treatment.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

William Merriman  
Deputy Director  
National Ambulance Service

