



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/45455/22

6th October 2022

Deputy Jennifer Whitmore
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Whitmore

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

PQ: To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans to include support teams in hospitals for parents that spend long periods of time in hospital with their sick child; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response

I have followed up with Children's Health Ireland (CHI). CHI endeavour to support all Children and Parents/Guardians in their patient journey through CHI. In addition to the daily support provided by all our teams including Consultants, Nurses, Health & Social Care Professionals, Admin, Porter, Health Care Assistants, etc., to all our Patients and families, we also provide additional support to parents of long stay patients. Set out here-under are some of the main supports in place for parents that spend long periods of time in hospital with their child.

- Social Work support - Providing parents with emotional and practical support.
- Psychology - Providing specific input when parents require psychological support regarding their child's diagnosis, treatment plan etc.
- Chaplaincy - Spiritual and emotional Support.
- Parents Accommodation, both onsite and adjacent to the hospital, for parents with long stay children, including important practical facilities such as laundry for washing clothes and kitchen facilities for parents to cook if they wish.
- Patient Feedback and Support Services - To help signpost parents when needed, offer them information and advice and manage feedback.

In addition to the above, CHI works closely with the Children in Hospital Group. The Children in Hospital Group are a charity and manage the volunteer programme for CHI. These volunteers offer a variety of services and supports for families and children in CHI hospitals.



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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.
CRA Registered Charity Number (RCN): 20202295 Revenue Charitable Status CHY: 22235
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