



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/47673/22

11th October 2022

Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Ó Snodaigh

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

PQ: To ask the Minister for Health the reason that there is no multidisciplinary team including paediatricians' expertise in post-viral illnesses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, psychologists and dietitians, in any of the children's hospitals to deal with long-Covid among children; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Childrens Health Ireland (CHI) Response (assisted by the HSE):

Childrens Health Ireland (CHI) can advise that although there is no single Paediatrician looking after children and young people with Long Covid, General Paediatricians nationally with experience in managing post-viral conditions will see these patients and will manage their care in accordance with the most recent evidence.

The HSE Interim Model of Care (MoC) for Long Covid was finalized in September 2021. On the back of this, an expert subgroup was set up under the office of the CCO to develop this MoC and was lead by the National Lead for Integrated Care, with input from different stakeholders. Extensive literature reviews were conducted in relation to the prevalence of Long Covid, risk factors, symptoms profile and trajectory and approaches to treatment.

There was a paucity of research in children, with initial reports indicating that children recover quickly from Covid and that the incidence of Long Covid was very low in these populations. For children and young people suspected of having Long Covid, the diagnosis and care is therefore provided by GPs and General Paediatricians.

The National Clinical Programme for Paediatrics and the National Clinical Advisors and Group Leads (NCAGL) for children and young people will continue to work closely with the HSE Long-Covid team to review evidence and support access to care.



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Long Covid data for children and young people is not available nationally at present. International evidence to date, however, is that younger people and children recovery quickly from Covid and the incidence of long Covid is low in these patient populations. For children and young people suspected of having long Covid, the diagnosis and care is provided by GPs and General Paediatricians. The National Clinical Advisory Group Lead for Children and the Long COVID Programme continues to review new evidence and research as it emerges internationally and will update relevant guidance as appropriate.

Your sincerely

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