



Dearadh agus Nuálaíocht Chliniciúil; Oifig an Príohoifigeach Cliniciúil
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14th July, 2023

Deputy David Cullinane, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 32023/23

To ask the Minister for Health to outline what clinical pathways are available for those transitioning from children spinal service to adult spinal services; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme for Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery (NCPTOS) on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

The primary focus for the NCPTOS is to ensure that patients of all ages have safe and timely access to trauma and orthopaedic care nationwide. The transitioning of children, with spinal and other orthopaedic conditions, to adult services is an ongoing challenge.

With respect to those who have spinal deformities, there is an agreed pathway in place between CHI Crumlin and the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital (MMUH).

This pathway is for:

- Those patients who have had surgery in CHI, but who require ongoing supervision and treatment over the age of 16 years;
- Those patients who have been referred to CHI, but who will not get their surgery while they are under 17 years.

Two CHI Crumlin surgeons have adult appointments to Tallaght University Hospital (TUH) and, until the COVID-19 pandemic, were able to continue the care of their spinal patients in TUH. This has now largely stopped in recent months. These CHI Crumlin surgeons will now use the CHI / MMUH transition pathway.

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,

Anne Horgan
General Manager