



Ref: PQ 31322/23

12<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**Deputy Paul Murphy**  
**Dáil Eireann**  
**Dublin 2**

Dear Deputy Murphy

I refer to your below parliamentary question which has been forwarded to me for attention.

**PQ 31322/23: To ask the Minister for Health to outline the complication and re-operation rate for spinal operations performed in Temple Street of patients with spinal muscle atrophy; if this is implant-dependent; if all implants used in these cases are licensed for this use; and which medical supplier or distribution company these implants have been purchased from.**

**Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response:**

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Temple Street can advise that the Spinal muscular Atrophy (SMA) group of patients with scoliosis who are in growth friendly systems have implants that are developed for spine surgery. The manner in which we use them has to be tailored to each case. The nature of growing or growth friendly systems is that they will require interval anaesthetics for lengthening procedures and ultimately many implant changes as children grow. This is standard practice in growing spines across the world.

Spinal surgery in patients with Spinal muscular Atrophy (SMA) can present various complications such as anaesthetic risks, respiratory issues, infection and wound healing problems. Re-operation and complication rates can be influenced by the unique anatomy of the child. Anatomical characteristics of each individual such as spinal curvature, vertebral alignment, skin integrity and muscle structures can affect the surgical outcomes and subsequent complications in SMA patients. All patients who have a rod insertion will require further surgery to have the rods extended. CHI do not have specific data for this group.

The vendors typically used for spine surgery at CHI at Temple street are: Stryker (Tekno surgical), Medtronic, Globus, De Puy Syntase. All of which are CE marked.

CHI can advise, it is standard practice that all implants, and specifically spinal implants, used in surgical have been, and continue to be, CE approved and licensed appropriately for this purpose.

Sláinte Leanaí Éireann



Children's Health Ireland

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.

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