



Ref: PQ 1128/24

25<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**Deputy Paul Donnelly**  
**Dáil Eireann**  
**Dublin 2**

Dear Deputy Donnelly

I refer to your below parliamentary question which has been forwarded to me for attention. Firstly, please accept my apologies for the delay in issuing a response.

**PQ 1128/24 – To ask the Minister for Health if CHI has the capacity to provide chest bracing service for children in the public health system as of December 2023.**

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

Pectus Carinatum bracing is considered to be a cosmetic treatment and is currently not funded by the HSE in Ireland.

Pectus carinatum bracing is an intensive treatment programme, with a narrow age related therapeutic window in children. There is no service within the Irish public healthcare system and any new service would require new funding and a detailed business case to include resources for dedicated staff and equipment/appliances costs with ongoing maintenance cost.

Within the public healthcare system, it would be challenging to effectively provide and prioritise this service over non-cosmetic elective and emergency treatments. With the narrow therapeutic window of effective bracing management, patients would need to be seen and braced in a very short time-frame, that is currently not feasible within the constraints of a public healthcare system. For these very reasons, pectus carinatum bracing is not being provided within any public healthcare system internationally.

It should be noted that none of the health insurance companies in Ireland fund pectus bracing.

Yours sincerely

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