



Oifig an Stiúrthoir Cúnta,
Cúram Priomhúil Rochtain agus Comhthathú,

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
D08 W2A8.

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9th April 2025

Deputy Boyd Barrett,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 15748/25 To ask the Minister for Health for what supports exist post-discharge for families dealing with complex medical conditions, particularly regarding feeding difficulties and early intervention; what plans there are to improve post-discharge services; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

- Richard Boyd Barrett

Dear Deputy Boyd Barrett,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 15748/25) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Paediatric Home Care Packages (PHCP) are a home nursing service provided by HSE Primary Care when a child has complex healthcare nursing needs that cannot be met by existing Primary Care and social services. They are put in place to enable families to care for their child with complex healthcare nursing needs at home. This service is delivered to a small group of children who have substantial healthcare needs as a result of one or more congenital, acquired or chronic conditions and who have functional limitations that often require technology assistance and ongoing nursing care primarily to support their parents to care for them at home.

This is a demand led service and initiation of PHCPs commences while the child is still an inpatient to ensure the service is active on the child's discharge date. There are currently 380 children nationally in receipt of a PHCP and these are all children with very high level of nursing needs which includes for example mechanical ventilation, artificial airways or dialysis. The number of children identified as requiring this level of specialist nursing to support the family is small relative to the numbers discharged home.

I trust this is of assistance.

Seán McArt

General Manager
Primary Care Access & Integration