



Ref: PQ 16534/25

03rd April 2025

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Cullinane

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

PQ 16534/25 – To ask the Minister for Health how the HSE tracks and monitors the use of vertebral body tethering-specific medical devices in the absence of a dedicated procedure code.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response:

Vertebral body tethering (VBT) surgeries do not have a specific Hospital In-Patient Enquiry code (HIPE). When VBT procedures are performed in Children's Health Ireland (CHI), they are coded under other procedures, for which HIPE codes exist – for example: "fixation", "fusion" or "other spinal procedures".

All patients who have surgery are followed up until their condition is stabilised or until their care has been transferred to Adult services.

Yours sincerely

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