

Sláinte Leanaí Éireann (SLÉ), Herberton, Siúlán San Séamas, Rialto, D08 HP97, Éire Children's Health Ireland (CHI), Herberton, St James's Walk, Rialto, D08 HP97 Ireland

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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Children's Health Ireland at Connolly | Crumlin | Tallaght | Temple Street

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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