



Ref: PQ 42825/25

16th September 2025

Deputy Pádraig Rice
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Rice

I refer to your parliamentary question below. Firstly, please accept my apologies for the delay in issuing a response.

PQ 42825/25 – To ask the Minister for Health if any children have become inoperable while suspended from Children's Health Ireland's spinal surgery waiting lists; the number, by year; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response:

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) can advise that based on the information available to us, we are not aware of any instances in which suspension from our spinal surgery waiting list has resulted in a patient becoming inoperable.

In line with NTPF guidelines, no patient can be suspended from a waiting list for longer than three months. Every patient who is suspended on CHI's Spinal Surgery waiting list is reviewed by the Spinal Surgery Management Unit on a monthly basis to ensure there are valid reasons for patients to remain in this category and to get them back on the active list as soon as possible. Decisions about next steps for these patients are made as a collaboration between clinicians and patients and their families.

For further information, please see response to PQ 42823/25, also issued to you today.

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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