



Ref: PQ 11214/25

19th May 2025

Deputy Rose Conway-Walsh
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Rose Conway-Walsh

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

PQ 11214/25 – To ask the Minister for Health if she will provide further details on the process to be followed by families who suspect that their child may be impacted by exposure to sodium valproate in order to establish a diagnosis of foetal valproate spectrum disorder; whether the patient must self-refer or seek a GP referral to genetic services; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response:

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) can advise that;

Under 16 years of age

If a child needs to be referred for a potential diagnosis and they are under 16 years of age, a referral can be made to CHI at Crumlin from their GP or a Consultant Paediatrician (as appropriate). This referral is sent to the Department of Paediatrics in CHI at Crumlin. Once the referral is received it will be clinically triaged by the Consultant Paediatrician, and where appropriate an appointment will be arranged to attend outpatients. At this appointment there may be a decision to carry out blood tests. Where necessary a referral may then be sent to a Consultant Geneticist in the Department of Clinical Genetics.

16 year of age and over

For patients and clients who are 16 years and older, a referral should be sent from their GP or a Consultant (as appropriate) to the Department of Clinical Genetics, in CHI Crumlin. This referral will be triaged by the Consultant Geneticist, and where appropriate an appointment will be arranged. An assessment will be carried out and relevant blood tests taken for DNA analysis (genetic tests). Genetic tests are sent abroad and depending on the type of test they can take from 6 weeks to a number of months to be tested. Once the results are received, they will be reviewed by the Consultant Geneticist, and the patient's case will be reviewed at a multidisciplinary team meeting to determine the diagnosis.

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

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CRA Registered Charity Number (RCN): 20202295 **Revenue Charitable Status CHY:** 22235

Board Members: Prof James Browne (Chairman), Ms Mary Cryan, Ms Mary Donovan, Ms Catherine Guy, Dr Gavin Lavery, Ms Brigid McManus, Ms Eleanor O'Neill

Sláinte Leanaí Éireann



Children's Health Ireland

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Yours sincerely

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