



Ref: PQ 23284/25

24th June 2025

Deputy Pádraig Rice
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Rice

I refer to your parliamentary question below which has been forwarded to me for attention. Firstly, please accept my apologies for the delay in issuing a response.

PQ 23284/25 – To ask the Minister for Health to provide further details regarding the traction system referred to in HIQA's review on governance of implantable medical devices at Children's Health Ireland (CHI), including use of non-CE marked springs in surgery at CHI Temple Street (details supplied); the number of children it was used on; if it was CE marked; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Details Supplied: On page 88 of the HIQA report, it states - "Instead, they explained to HIQA that they presumed that the springs were to be used as spare parts or replacement parts for an external traction system that utilises springs in its design. [...] They told HIQA that they and Surgeon A had worked together on such a traction system a number of years previously."

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response:

The use of Halo traction wheelchairs is an important component in the management of children with complex spinal deformities, providing enhanced mobility, comfort, and therapeutic support during their hospital stay. By using these wheelchairs, young patients can engage more actively in their recovery, experiencing improved physical outcomes and a better overall hospital experience.

Until recently, halo traction equipment was not available to purchase, and so it was necessary to modify existing equipment to the bespoke needs of each patient. This was standard practice for Clinical Engineers and Clinical Teams in hospitals around the world. Thanks to the advent of these new purpose-designed halo traction wheelchairs and devices, Children's Health Ireland has been able to decommission the old systems and move to these new CE approved halo wheelchairs sourced in Sweden and France.

Please see further information at links below.

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.

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

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

[https://media.childrenshealthireland.ie/documents/Guide to Halo Gravity Traction Final 25.02.25_C6HMTXh.pdf](https://media.childrenshealthireland.ie/documents/Guide_to_Halo_Gravity_Traction_Final_25.02.25_C6HMTXh.pdf)

[Children's Health Ireland to receive new, purpose-built Halo Traction wheelchairs for young scoliosis patients | Children's Health Ireland](#)

Yours sincerely

Mr. David Moore

Clinical Lead for Spinal Services

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