



Oifig an Stiúrthoir Cúnta,
Cúram Priomhúil Rochtain agus Comhthathú,

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
D08 W2A8.

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10th October 2025

Deputy Ward,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 54682/25: To ask the Minister for Health to outline the process of accepting a referral for primary care child psychology services; if letters are sent to parents asking to consent their child for services following a GP referral letter; to outline the need for this if a GP referral has been made; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

-Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 54682/25) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The development of a streamlined central referral business process for Children & Young People in each IHA area is a key strategic action in 2025. A National Single Point of Access (SPoA) Implementation Group has been established to provide oversight of the implementation of SPoA project within each Regional Health Area (RHA) / Integrated Health Area (IHA) for Children's Community Services. A Regional SPoA Implementation group is in place in each of the 6 Regions and they are currently finalising their respective SPoA implementation plans for submission to the HSE CEO. This will ensure that all referrals are reviewed, triaged and directed to the most appropriate service.

In relation to the issue of consent and GP referrals, *The National Policy on Access to Services for Children & Young People with Disability and Developmental Delay* states "Children aged from birth to 18 years may be referred by parents/legal guardians, health and social care professionals including General Practitioners, hospitals, education professionals, Assessment Officers or Case Managers to either Children's Disability Network Teams or Primary Care Services. All referrals must be accompanied by signed consent by parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and as much relevant information as possible in order to aid the decision making regarding which service would best meet the child's needs". As such, it would not be unusual for a service to write to a parent seeking consent if same was not included in the original referral, regardless of whether this referral was from a GP or other health/education professional.



Of note, the *HSE National Consent Policy* also states that consent of at least one parent is required for treatment of individuals aged under 16 years. If consent was not provided as part of a GP referral, it would not be unusual for a service to write to parents to check their consent before accepting a child to the waiting list.

I trust this is of assistance.

Maeve Raeside
General Manager
Primary Care Access & Integration