

Suite 113, 4-5 Burton Hall Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18

Phone: 01 2903510

Email: info@childreninhospital.ie

Web: www.childreninhospital.ie

Children in Hospital Ireland (CIH) support the development of the *Draft Overarching National Standards for the Care and Support of Children using Health and Social Care Services*. Our general comments can be seen below.

CIH welcomes

- The overarching emphasis on children's rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).
- The recognition of the need for children to be involved in the planning and decision-making regarding their care.
- The recognition that specific supports are needed to support children transitioning to adult services.
- The recognition of the need for children in healthcare settings to access education, play, and recreation.
- The recognition of the role of parents as an active partner in their child's care.
- The recognition that the wellbeing of the child and the family is connected.

CIH calls for greater focus on

- The need for adequate resourcing and staffing to address waiting lists which prevent children from accessing appropriate care when and where they need it.
- The need for adequate measures to support home-based care and care in the community in order to ensure that children have the same opportunities to participate in family and community life.
- The need to acknowledge the specific rights and responsibilities of parents as the primary caregiver, and the requirement for the state to support parents in this role, as set out in the UNCRC.

President: Professor Alf Nicholson, FRCPI, FRCPC *Secretary:* S Egan

Directors: M Burns, C Connaughton, P Kelly, C Kirrane, B O'Hare, K Ryan, K McAuley, C Mason, G Curran, C O'Dwyer

Company limited by guarantee. Registered in Dublin, Ireland. Registered office as above.

Registered Charity No. 20012632 *Company Registration No.* 297192 *Charity No.* 6632

Supported by:

2020 Award Winner

Suite 113, 4-5 Burton Hall Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18

Phone: 01 2903510

Email: info@childreninhospital.ie

Web: www.childreninhospital.ie

- The need for adequate measures to support parents to be with their child at all times, including accommodation, financial supports, and psycho-social supports.
- The need to address the child safeguarding concerns which arise from children aged 16+ receiving treatment in adult hospitals and other instances of children being admitted to adult hospitals.
- The need for the provision of targeted psycho-social support for children, parents, and their families impacted by childhood illness, including easy transition between hospital and community-based services.
- The need to acknowledge the specific impact of childhood illness on siblings, including the provision of targeted supports by healthcare services.

CIH notes

- The draft standards include no reference to the *National Healthcare Charter for Children*, as developed by the HSE. This document has never been publicly promoted to young people or to the general population. It is vital that there is consistency in the approach articulated in the two sets of standards.

President: Professor Alf Nicholson, FRCPI, FRCPC *Secretary:* S Egan

Directors: M Burns, C Connaughton, P Kelly, C Kirrane, B O'Hare, K Ryan, K McAuley, C Mason, G Curran, C O'Dwyer

Company limited by guarantee. Registered in Dublin, Ireland. Registered office as above.

Registered Charity No. 20012632 *Company Registration No.* 297192 *Charity No.* 6632

Supported by:

2020 Award Winner

