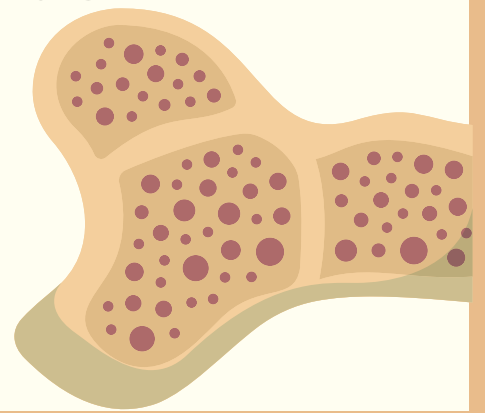



# STEM CELL TRANSPLANTS FOR CHILDREN: TREATMENT ABROAD VERSUS IN IRELAND

**HIQA ANALYSED THE COSTS, ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES, AND IMPACT ON THE PATIENT AND THEIR FAMILIES OF PROVIDING HAEMATOPOIETIC STEM CELL TRANSPLANT (HSCT) SERVICES IN IRELAND RATHER THAN ABROAD FOR CHILDREN WITH CERTAIN RARE INHERITED CONDITIONS.**

## STEM CELL TRANSPLANTS...

Can treat children with certain inborn errors of metabolism, inborn errors of immunity and haemoglobinopathies. These conditions are inherited and they disproportionately affect ethnic minorities in Ireland.



 Undergoing a stem cell transplant is a stressful time and travelling abroad increases this burden. Families, partners and siblings can be separated from one another for up to six months.



**HIQA ADVISED THAT REPATRIATION OF CARE IS POSSIBLE. HIQA'S ESTIMATES TOOK ACCOUNT OF THE INCREASED TRANSPLANT BED CAPACITY WHEN THE HSCT SERVICE MOVES TO THE NEW CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.**

However, this would rely on the recruitment of additional staff, such as skilled nursing staff and support staff, across a range of disciplines.



## WE ESTIMATED...

that moving the service to Ireland for the patients currently treated abroad could lead to cost reductions for the HSE.



HIQA's assessment also found that repatriation of stem cell transplants to Ireland would reduce the financial, logistical and emotional burden that families face.