



**RESPONSE TO QUERY FROM TYRONE CONSTITUTION RE
TONSILLECTOMY OPERATIONS**

Mrs. Margaret Kelly, Director of Acute Services for the Western Trust said:

“While tonsillectomies are a common procedure, they should not be described as routine. With all tonsillectomies there is a potential to bleed post-operatively especially within 24 hours. In children this is more serious and can become an emergency situation more quickly because a child has a lower volume of blood. Because of this, the Western Trust, in consultation with the DHSSPS, has decided that in the interests of children’s safety, all paediatric tonsillectomies should be treated as inpatients.

There are no paediatric inpatient services at the TCH so in a paediatric emergency, there would be no appropriately qualified doctors on site to deal with the situation. As a result, children requiring inpatient ENT procedures need to be treated in Altnagelvin.

While this change means children and their carers may have to travel some distances, the safety of the children in our care must be, and always will be, our first priority.

Adult ENT services, both in-patient and day case, continue to be delivered at the TCH as well as more routine paediatric day case procedures. ENT outpatient clinics for both adults and children remain unchanged. In addition,

the Trust is considering what additional services should be brought to the TCH, particularly in the areas of elective day surgery, diagnostics, rehabilitation and ambulatory care.”

ENDS

30TH May 2007

Provided by Communications Department, phone 028 71611429