



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 18889/21**

- ***To ask the Minister for Health the number of cancer operations that took place in each year since 2016; the percentage of the procedures that took place in approved centres; and if he will make a statement on the matter.***

Dear Deputy Ó Cuív,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

As you may be aware, the Healthcare Pricing Office (HPO) is responsible for managing and reporting data from the Hospital In-Patient Enquiry (HIPE) System. The HIPE System is a health information system designed to collect medical and administrative data regarding discharges from, and deaths in, acute public hospitals. HIPE does not collect Emergency Department or out-patient data.

I have contacted the HPO in relation to this request and I am advised by HIPE that *“In relation to the number of cancer surgeries conducted; HIPE collects a principal diagnosis and up to 29 additional diagnoses for each episode of care along with a principal procedure and up to 19 additional procedures. We can select episodes of care with a principal diagnosis of a malignant neoplasm but cannot link the neoplasm diagnosis codes to the procedure codes.*

*When we select episodes of care with a principal diagnosis of a neoplasm the following may be the case:*

- *the procedure listed as the principal procedure on the episode of care may be performed for conditions other than the neoplasm*
- *the patients may have had more procedures performed on the neoplasm than the principal procedure*
- *the patients may have had no procedures performed on the neoplasm.*

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine  
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan  
An Ceantar Theas  
An Bothar Mileata  
Cill Mhaighneann  
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Acute Operations  
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Heuston South Quarter  
Military Road  
Kilmainham  
Dublin 8.

*We therefore cannot specifically identify the procedures performed for treatment of the neoplasm.*

*We would have the number of episodes of care reported to HIPE where the admission was due to a malignant neoplasm for 2016-2019, but not the number of cancer surgeries”.*

I am further advised that HIPE currently cannot provide 2020 data as the file is not yet closed.

Yours sincerely,



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Carol Ivory  
General Manager  
Acute Operations