



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan
An Ceantar Theas
An Bothar Mileata
Cill Mhaighneann
BÁC 8

Acute Operations
Health Service Executive
Unit 4A - The Dargan Building
Heuston South Quarter
Military Road
Kilmainham
Dublin 8.

16th February 2021

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

RE: PQ 5020/21 *To ask the Minister for Health the number of cancer procedures and surgeries conducted by type in 2019 and 2020, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

I wish to advise you that 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.

I have contacted the HPO in relation to this request and I am advised by HIPE that *“In relation to the number of cancer procedures and 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.*

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

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

I trust that this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Carol Ivory
General Manager
Acute Operations