



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

04th March 2021

Deputy Sean Sherlock
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

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.

PQ 9489/21* *To ask the Minister for Health the number of children under 18 years of age awaiting ENT intervention by CHO, age and gender in tabular form. -Sean Sherlock*

Dear Deputy Sherlock

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.

Response

Since the onset of COVID-19 there has been significant reduction in all scheduled care activity across Acute Services including outpatient clinics, this is in line with the National Action Plan on COVID-19 (page 20).

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/47b727-government-publishes-national-action-plan-on-covid-19/>

Arising from the NPHE decision in early May regarding resumption of services and aligned with the roadmap for reopening society and business, Phase 1 <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/ad5dd0-easing-the-covid-19-restrictions-on-may-18-phase-1/#health-and-social-care>, interim guidance was developed in the context of all scheduled services for the resumption of activity including outpatients. This guidance has been approved by the Expert Advisory Group (EAG) and has been issued to all hospital groups/hospitals to support the resumption of scheduled care.

The guidance outlines the measures that need to be undertaken to ensure safety for both patients and staff and varies depending on the type of appointment or treatment the patient is receiving.

These measures were implemented as services resumed in 2020 however, they have impacted on capacity in a number of areas such elements as; workflow, patient pathways, patient engagement and communication, infrastructure, physical distancing, capacity and resources.

In the latter part of 2020, as services adapted to new workflows and processes associated with providing care within a COVID environment, the number of patients treated began to increase. The number of patients being treated in the scheduled care pathway in the early part of 2021 has been affected by the latest surge in COVID-19 and the requirement to prioritise access for time – urgent care.

The NTPF has statutory responsibility for the collection and publication of waiting list information. Waiting list data is published on a monthly basis on the NTPF website at www.ntpf.ie. For convenience, I have attached the most recent waiting list data for ENT by Hospital Group. A further breakdown, by Hospital, is available on the NTPF website.

The Deputy may be aware that significant funding has been identified through the 2021 estimates process to support access to care. The HSE is working with Hospital Groups and the NTPF to ensure that available additional funding in 2021 is targeted at access to care for patients where care delivery has been affected by the Pandemic.

I trust that this answers your question.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Kidd
Assistant National Director
Acute Operations

Table 1: NTPF Outpatient Waiting List Data for ENT – Extract Date 25/02/2021

Hospital Group	0-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	12-15 Months	15-18 Months	18-21 Months	21-24 Months	24-36 Months	36-48 Months	48+ Months	Grand Total
Dublin Midlands Hospital Group	1241	1201	855	757	1174	960	1009	1116	2735	1208	287	12543
Ireland East Hospital Group	1649	1331	1009	689	886	809	768	762	1559	619	23	10104
RCSI Hospitals Group	1310	1028	702	373	608	462	414	327	290	0	0	5514
Saolta University Health Care Group	1341	1308	976	779	1348	1260	1094	1243	2550	1334	1085	14318
South/South West Hospital Group	2270	1660	1249	960	1412	1222	1198	1390	4111	2427	910	18809
University of Limerick Hospital Group	592	594	451	390	719	552	526	502	1594	694	78	6692
Grand Total	8403	7122	5242	3948	6147	5265	5009	5340	12839	6282	2383	67980

Data Source: National treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF)

Table 2: NTPF Inpatient /Day case Waiting List Data for ENT – Extract Date 25/02/2021

Hospital Group	0-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	12-15 Months	15-18 Months	18-24 Months	24-36 Months	36-48 Months	48+ Months	Grand Total
Dublin Midlands Hospital Group	342	129	62	53	107	84	93	56	23	5	954
Ireland East Hospital Group	255	181	54	40	54	33	40	28	6	1	692
RCSI Hospitals Group	156	139	82	37	118	41	9	2			584
Saolta University Health Care Group	244	203	69	46	101	85	81	82	39	13	963
South/South West Hospital Group	310	245	81	72	127	68	69	20	3	0	995
University of Limerick Hospital Group	52	48	19	16	53	25	26	18	27		284
Grand Total	1359	945	367	264	560	336	318	206	98	19	4472

Data Source: National treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF)