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Leinster House
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19th November 2021

Re. PQ Number: 54618/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons currently undergoing chemotherapy treatment in the State; and the number of persons who underwent chemotherapy treatment in each of the past five years and to date in 2021.

Dear Deputy Tóibín

Systemic anti-cancer therapy (SACT) is a broad term used to describe medicines administered for the treatment of a cancer diagnosis, typically at recurring intervals over a period of time. SACT includes chemotherapy, hormonal treatments and immunotherapy.

Due to the limitations of available data sources it is not possible to accurately quantify the number of persons currently undergoing chemotherapy in the state and the number of persons who underwent chemotherapy treatment in each of the past five years and to date in 2021.

The NCCP collects data on the number of new patients starting systemic parenteral treatment in the day ward setting, which is a specific subset of overall SACT activity in Ireland. The total numbers of new patients starting systemic parenteral treatment in the day ward setting by year (2016 – YTD 2021) are:

5,957 (2016)
6,502 (2017)
7,241 (2018)
8,252 (2019)
7,683 (2020) and
5,703 (YTD 2021)

Please note that activity that was outsourced to private facilities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020/2021 may not be included in these figures.

Yours sincerely



Professor Risteárd Ó Laoide
National Director
National Cancer Control Programme