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Deputy David Cullinane TD

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

PQ No. PQ 17432/22

To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide details of the way in which patients are categorised for emergency department admissions; the way these are prioritised; the effect of this prioritisation in practice; the number of patients admitted under each category in 2019, by hospital 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 have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Response:

The National Clinical Programme for Emergency Medicine advises that all patients attending ED are triaged into one of five categories of urgency, in relation to the need for emergency intervention. Approximately 25% of attendances are then referred for inpatient admission.

Following a decision to admit, those patients are further prioritised by the following:

- Need for isolation because of particular diagnosis under consideration
- Level of dependency and treatment needs (e.g. requiring ICU bed)
- Length of stay in the Emergency Department

In addition to the above, special requirements such as the need for cardiac monitoring and non-invasive ventilation are also considered.

Granular data on the number of patients admitted aligned to the above clinical decisions/ prioritisation is not collated. However, 2019 data on the total number of admissions per hospital may be seen in the following table.

Hospital Group	Provider	Admitted
Children's Health Ireland	CHI at Crumlin	5,387
	CHI at Tallaght	4,201
	CHI at Temple St	3,642
Children's Health Ireland Total		**13,230**
Dublin Midlands Hospital Group	MRH Portlaoise	9,555
	MRH Tullamore	9,132
	Naas General Hospital	7,949
	St. James's Hospital	14,071
	Tallaght University Hospital	14,002
Dublin Midlands Hospital Group Total		**54,709**
Ireland East Hospital Group	Mater Misericordiae University Hospital	17,192
	MRH Mullingar	11,524
	Our Lady's Hospital Navan	4,600
	St. Luke's General Hospital Kilkenny	20,237
	St. Michael's Hospital	2,380
	St. Vincent's University Hospital	17,516
	Wexford General Hospital	12,173
Ireland East Hospital Group Total		**85,622**
RCSI Hospitals Group	Beaumont Hospital	14,486
	Cavan General Hospital	9,729
	Connolly Hospital	12,896
	Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital	18,881
RCSI Hospitals Group Total		**55,992**
Saolta University Health Care Group	Galway University Hospitals	16,327
	Letterkenny University Hospital	15,136
	Mayo University Hospital	11,750
	Portiuncula University Hospital	7,628
	Sligo University Hospital	10,781
Saolta University Health Care Group Total		**61,622**
South / South West Hospital Group	Cork University Hospital	19,407
	Mercy University Hospital	6,686
	Tipperary University Hospital	11,277
	UH Kerry	10,553
	UH Waterford	10,986
South / South West Hospital Group Total		**58,909**
UL Hospitals Group	UH Limerick	21,931
UL Hospitals Group Total		**21,931**
Grand Total		**352,015**

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Benton

General Manager

Acute Operations