

Éamon Ó Cuív TD
Fianna Fáil
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
e. eamon.ocuiv@oireachtas.ie

7th March 2022

Re. **PQ 10408/22: To ask the Minister for Health the number of cancer resection surgeries which took place in each of the years 2016 to 2021, in tabular form.**

PQ 10409/22: To ask the Minister for Health the proportion of patients who received their first cycle of chemotherapy in the day ward setting, during the reporting month, within 15 working days of the date of being deemed ready to treat in each of the years 2017 to 2021, in tabular form.

PQ 10410/22: To ask the Minister for Health the proportion of patients who completed radical treatment for a primary cancer and commenced treatment within 15 working days of being deemed ready to be treated by their clinician.

Dear Deputy Ó Cuív

The National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above PQs.

PQ 10408/22: To ask the Minister for Health the number of cancer resection surgeries which took place in each of the years 2016 to 2021, in tabular form.

Cancer resections are used for both diagnostic and therapeutic management of patients. Following a patient's cancer resection, further decisions are made regarding chemotherapy or radiation therapy, based on their pathology report and disease staging.

The National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) does not collect data on the total number of cancer resections performed nationally. Data on the national number of diagnostic and therapeutic resections is collected by the National Histopathology Quality Improvement (NHQI) Programme and is managed by the Directorate of Quality and Clinical Care in the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) on behalf of the HSE National Quality Improvement Team.

The most recent annual report by the National Histopathology QI Programme is publicly available at <https://www.rcpi.ie/news/publications/>

PQ 10409/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the proportion of patients who received their first cycle of chemotherapy in the day ward setting, during the reporting month, within 15 working days of the date of being deemed ready to treat in each of the years 2017 to 2021, in tabular form.

The national cancer control programme (NCCP) does not collect data on overall numbers of patients receiving chemotherapy but do collect data on the number of new patients starting systemic parenteral treatment in the day ward setting which is a specific subset of overall activity.

NCCP do collect key performance indicators (KPI) that measure time to treatment for medical oncology as follows:

The proportion of patients receiving new systemic parenteral treatment in the day ward setting who commenced treatment within 15 working days of being deemed ready to treat; target 90%.

Tabulated data for the above KPI is given as follows when summed across all hospitals that submit treatment KPI data to NCCP:

Medical Oncology	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Patients	6,502	7,241	8,252	7,683	7,979
% within 15 days	89.7%	89.3%	89.8%	90.0%	87.0%

Please note:

- Activity that was outsourced to private facilities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020/2021 may not be included in these figures.
- Data for 2021 may not be complete for all submitting hospitals and is subject to change.

General Note

All KPIs are based on internationally benchmarked clinical standards and are designed with the national lead clinicians specific to each specialty.

Targets are set high enough that they are difficult for each cancer centre to achieve whilst also considering anticipated clinical volumes that may confound or delay treatment for more complex patients.

Targets are therefore indicative of a high performing unit and missing a target is not necessarily an indication of sub-standard performance.

PQ 10410/22: To ask the Minister for Health the proportion of patients who completed radical treatment for a primary cancer and commenced treatment within 15 working days of being deemed ready to be treated by their clinician.

The national cancer control programme (NCCP) collect key performance indicators (KPI) that measure time to treatment for radiation oncology as follows:

The proportion of patients completing radical radiation therapy commenced treatment within 15 working days of being deemed ready to treat; target 90%.

Tabulated data for the above KPI is given as follows when summed across all hospitals that submit treatment KPI data to NCCP:

Radiation Oncology	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Patients	4,681	5,522	5,869	5,607	5,474
% within 15 days	74.0%	83.4%	85.3%	83.2%	77.2%

Please note:

- Not all treating hospitals were submitting data prior to 2018.
- The KPI does not include patients receiving palliative radiation therapy.
- Activity that was outsourced to private facilities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020/2021 and also the cyberattack in May/June 2021 may not be included in these figures.
- Data for 2021 may not be complete for all submitting hospitals and is subject to change.

General Note

All KPIs are based on internationally benchmarked clinical standards and are designed with the national lead clinicians specific to each specialty.

Targets are set high enough that they are difficult for each cancer centre to achieve whilst also considering anticipated clinical volumes that may confound or delay treatment for more complex patients.

Targets are therefore indicative of a high performing unit and missing a target is not necessarily an indication of sub-standard performance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'Risteárd Ó Laoide'.

Professor Risteárd Ó Laoide
National Director
National Cancer Control Programme