



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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

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

26th January 2022

Deputy Mattie McGrath

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2.

PQ 1058/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons attending acute hospitals with strokes, blood clots and for emergency cardiac care in 2021 and in the previous five years.

Dear Deputy McGrath,

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.

As you are aware, HIPE is a health information system, managed by the Healthcare Pricing Office (HPO) of HSE Finance and is designed to collect clinical and administrative data on discharges from, and deaths in, acute public hospitals in Ireland. HIPE discharges are clinically coded from charts in the hospitals, this includes translating medical terminology into alpha-numeric code and using the entire chart to extract the conditions and procedures to create an adequate picture of the patient's health care encounter.

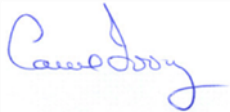
A pseudo-anonymised version of this data is then sent to the Healthcare Pricing Office (HPO) from each hospital each month where it is compiled at a national-level. At every part of this process, in the hospitals and in the HPO, the data is subject to extensive data quality checks. Each month, data from the current month and any previous months during the year can be added to, or updated by, the hospital. The HIPE file is therefore provisional and subject to change until it closes in the following year, this facilitates the data being as complete and as accurate as possible when the file closes. Once the HIPE file is closed, changes can no longer be made to the data and it is at that stage that the HPO start to use this data for reports and information requests.

HPO advise that it is important to note that HIPE is not an operational database; it is not updated nationally at the HPO on a real-time or daily basis and is also not considered final until it is closed in the following year.

I am advised by the HPO that the data for 2021 is not fully coded to date, and that there is not a full picture of the diagnoses or procedures carried out in 2021 to date. An additional issue in 2021 was the impact of the Cyber Attack which severely disrupted hospital, HPO and HIPE systems. I understand that there was no data input during this period, from the 14th May 2021, for approximately 2 weeks. This impact varied from hospital to hospital. I understand that while IT systems are mostly operating and some data from this time being input since, there may still be gaps in the data for some sites.

I am advised that HIPE data for 2021 has not been provided by the HPO for any PQs to date, and data for an open year is generally not provided for information requests, because at this stage it is not complete and is not final. I am advised that it is expected that the 2021 file will close at the end of March 2022 and that the HPO expects that data would be available in April.

Yours sincerely,



Carol Ivory

General Manager,

Acute Operations