



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.

1st February 2022

Deputy Mattie McGrath

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2.

PQ 1787/22 - The number of cases of myocarditis and pericarditis that have been diagnosed in 2021 and per year for the preceding five years in Irish hospitals

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.

I wish to advise you that the information you are seeking is collected through HIPE. 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.

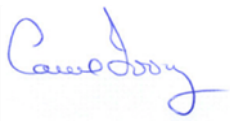
As the 2021 file is an open file and continually added, the information requested cannot be provided for 2021. The file is due to close the end of March so data should be available in April 2022.

Please find the attached the available HIPE information. Table 1 includes information on total discharges from acute hospitals with a principal diagnosis from the specified list of myocarditis or pericarditis diagnosis codes, reported to HIPE 2015-2020. Please note the standard unit of measurement in HIPE is the discharge. A patient may be admitted to and discharged from hospital several times in a given year. Each discharge for such a patient would be recorded in HIPE. In the absence of a unique patient identifier, it is not possible to use HIPE to examine the number of hospital encounters per patient, or to estimate the incidence or prevalence of disease.

I am advised that In-patient and day case discharges are reported only; ED and out-patient attendances are not recorded on HIPE.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Carol Ivory

General Manager,

Acute Operations