



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta  
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**Deputy Marc ÓCathasaigh T.D.,**

**Dail Eireann,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.**

**26<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

***37672/22 -To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an outline of spending on the treatment of hepatitis C across all CHOs in the country; and if he will provide an update on education programmes and support programmes available to general practitioners in relation to hepatitis C treatments in tabular form. – Marc ÓCathasaigh***

**Dear Deputy Ó Cathasaigh,**

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your Parliamentary Question below which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I must apologise for the delay in responding and I am outlining my response below.

I refer to the above parliamentary question in relation to spending on the treatment of hepatitis C and an update on education programmes and support programmes available to general practitioners.

By way of some background, the National hepatitis C Treatment Programme (NHCTP) has provided hepatitis C treatment to over 6,500 patients since its inception 2015. Treatment is currently provided to patients in Ireland by the Hepatology Departments in nine Acute Hospitals (including two children's hospitals), eighteen Opiate Substitution Treatment Clinics (based in certain HSE addiction services). In addition, as part of the NHCTP Community G.P/Pharmacy Dispensing Pilot there are forty-eight community G.P's providing hepatitis C treatment to patients.

The NHCTP budget for 2022 is €23 million. To date this year the following number of treatments have commenced at a cost of almost €8 million:



<b>CHO</b>	<b>Number of hep C Treatments Commenced to end of 30.6.2022</b>
2	16
3	2
4	23
5	6
6	8
7	92
9	108
<b>Total</b>	<b>255</b>

#### **Education and Support Programmes available to G.P's**

An on-line education program on hepatitis C treatment for GP's is available through the Irish College of General Practitioners. This programme was developed by the ICGP with a grant from the National Hepatitis C Training Programme. There is a similar on-line programme available for community pharmacists. The programme has produced community treatment guidelines, which are regularly updated. These guidelines provide detailed instructions for treatment and include a dedicated prescription system. In addition the guidelines have email and phone contacts for a number of hospital based hepatitis C specialist pharmacists who can advise re drug interactions etc. There is also a virtual Clinical Advisory Group (including medical, pharmacy and specialist nursing input) to support community prescribers.

Yours sincerely,

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**Geraldine Crowley,  
Assistant National Director,  
Enhanced Community Care Programme &  
Primary Care Contracts**