



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta  
Géaroibríochtaí

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Deputy David Cullinane  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2  
15 June 2022

**Re:** Parliamentary Question (PQ) 29676/22

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

I refer to the following parliamentary question which you recently submitted to the Health Service Executive;

**PQ 29676/22** - *To ask the Minister for Health the number of cancer related appointments by appointment type cancelled in May 2022, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

This response to the above parliamentary question will define a hospital initiated scheduled care appointment cancellation, the likely reasons for a cancellation and rescheduling of patient appointments.

The response will also identify the number of hospital initiated scheduled care appointments cancelled in May 2022, with chemotherapy appointments separately identified. The HSE does not have a detailed breakdown of the inpatient and day case cancellation of scheduled care appointments by speciality.

#### **I. Definition of a hospital initiated inpatient/day case or outpatient cancellation**

A hospital initiated cancellation of a scheduled care appointment is defined as the rescheduling of a patient To Come In (TCI) date by the hospital due to circumstances beyond its control.

#### **II. Reasons for cancellation of scheduled care appointments**

Hospitals may have to cancel scheduled care appointments due to factors outside their control including the following;

- I. Increased ED attendances and admissions resulting in a requirement for surge inpatient bed capacity
- II. Unforeseen circumstances, e.g. weather events, infection outbreaks or industrial action.

#### **III. Rescheduling of hospital initiated inpatient/day case appointments**

Hospitals endeavor to provide the patient with as much notice as possible in relation to the cancellation of elective inpatient/day case appointments. The National Inpatient, Day Case, Planned Procedure (IDPP) waiting list management protocol 2017 issued by the National Treatment Purchase Fund requires hospitals to reschedule elective care appointments within six weeks of cancellation, subject to patient confirmation regarding their availability to attend. Clinical guidance must be sought when managing and rescheduling patients appointments cancelled by the hospital. This is necessary to ensure that urgent and vulnerable patients are rescheduled appropriately. Patients cancelled by the hospital will not have their waiting list date reset.



Appendix 1 (attached in pdf document) shows the number of hospital initiated scheduled care appointment cancellations in May 2022 and chemotherapy appointments is separately identified. Please note that the HSE's Business Intelligence Unit commenced the collection of hospital initiated cancellations in April 2022. The data provided in the attached schedule for May 2022 is still being validated and may be subject to change.

I trust the above response answers the parliamentary question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carmel Beirne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Carmel Beirne  
General Manager  
Acute Operations**