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PQ 32675/22: To ask the Minister for Health the absolute total number of people that attended lung rapid access clinics regardless of waiting time; the number and proportion that attended within the recommended 20 working days for each quarter between 2015 to present, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter

PQ 32676/22: To ask the Minister for Health the proportion of all lung cancer diagnoses made as a result of a person's attendance at a lung rapid access clinic in each of the years 2016 to 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Guirke,

The national cancer control programme (NCCP) collates a small subset of aggregate data related to specific tumours and are mostly associated with the monitoring of rapid access cancer assessment services in adults.

The rapid access assessment services for Symptomatic Breast Disease (SBD) Clinics, Rapid Access Lung Clinics (RALC) and Rapid Access Prostate Clinics (RAPC) operate in each of the 8 designated cancer centres with one additional breast satellite clinic. **It is important to note that these are symptomatic patients being assessed for suspected cancer, the majority of whom will not be diagnosed with cancer.**

The total number of newly referred patients having first attendance at rapid access lung clinics and the percentage of those seen within 10 working days of receipt of referral at the cancer centre is given in Table 1.

New Attendances to Rapid Access Lung Clinics	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2015	3,128	857	794	720	757
2016	3,247	807	889	761	790
2017	3,426	891	917	808	810
2018	3,565	962	945	817	841
2019	3,606	883	896	938	889
2020	3,338	969	708	824	837
2021	3,679	830	792	1,033	1,024
2022	*	991	*	*	*

Attendances within 10 working days of Referral	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2015	85.5%	90.4%	80.7%	84.7%	85.7%
2016	82.4%	86.0%	79.4%	79.1%	85.3%
2017	83.5%	86.2%	80.4%	79.7%	87.7%
2018	87.7%	86.6%	86.2%	88.0%	90.2%
2019	87.1%	86.5%	88.2%	85.5%	88.2%
2020	86.6%	80.0%	90.4%	89.6%	88.1%
2021	89.7%	92.0%	92.2%	87.0%	88.7%
2022	*	87.9%	*	*	*

Table 1 - Total number of new patients attending rapid access lung clinics in the 8 cancer centres and the percentage seen within 10 working days; 2015 to Q1 2022.

The NCCP has established RACs for suspected breast, lung and prostate cancers, cancers which combined account for 42% of the almost 25,000 invasive cancers (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer) diagnosed in Ireland each year. The RACs, operating from the eight designated cancer centres and one additional breast satellite centre, provide a streamlined pathway to diagnostic evaluation and specialist review for these three major cancers.

However, not all breast, lung and prostate cancers are diagnosed through the RACs. While it is estimated that almost all **symptomatic** patients attending public hospitals and subsequently diagnosed with breast cancer are diagnosed via the **symptomatic** breast disease clinics, only about half of all lung cancers and a third of prostate cancers are diagnosed via the rapid access route.

NCCP cannot give more precise figures as data on the national picture to include both private and public activity and those diagnosed outside of the symptomatic SBD/RAC services or via the national breast screening programme are not collected by the NCCP.

Yours sincerely



Professor Risteárd Ó Laoide
National Director
National Cancer Control Programme

