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30th November 2022

PQ 58977/22: To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons who have begun chemotherapy treatment in the State in each of the past ten years and to date in 2022.

Dear Mr Tóibín,

The National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) collects limited summary data on systemic anti-cancer therapy (SACT).

The annual number of patients who received a new parenteral systemic therapy in the day ward setting is tabulated as follows:

Medical Oncology	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 Jan-Jun
Total	6,004	5,957	6,502	7,241	8,252	7,683	8,147	4,162

New parenteral systemic therapy means a new patient starting a regimen, or a patient starting a new regimen who previously had cancer or a patient who has had a change in regimen than involves additional new drugs.

New parenteral systemic therapy excludes patients who are on their 2nd or 3rd cycle, even if new to the hospital, and patients who reduce the number of drugs used in the regimen.

Please note the following caveats when interpreting the data:

- SACT treatment of new patients starting systemic parenteral treatment in the day ward setting is only a small subset of overall chemotherapy activity i.e. it does not include patients continuing treatment or any patients on Oral Anti-cancer Medications (OAMs).
- Parenteral SACT day ward activity that was outsourced to private facilities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020/2021 may not be included in these figures.
- Data for January to June 2022 may not be complete for all submitting hospitals and is subject to change.

- The NCCP began collecting SACT data between 2015 and 2017 across the various treating units. As such, only data from 2018 onwards is largely complete for all treating units. Data prior to 2015 is not available.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Heckmann

Ms Patricia Heckmann
Assistant National Director
National Cancer Control Programme

