



18th October 2022

Deputy Canney
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 48352/22: To ask the Minister for Health the amount that is paid to each doctor for the performance of an abortion in a general practitioner-setting; the amount paid to doctors, midwifery, and any other hospital staff for the provision of abortion in a hospital setting; and if either amount has changed since 2019.

PQ Ref 48354/22: To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a breakdown of the amount that was paid to general practitioners for carrying-out abortions in each of the years 2019 to 2021; and the total amount paid for abortions carried out in hospital settings separately in that timeframe

Dear Deputy Canney

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 have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

In relation to the spend within Primary Care services, the approved fees to be paid to GPs under the Termination of Pregnancy Scheme are set out below.

TOP Code	TOP Description	Amount Paid
AH	TOP Patients first consultation	€150
AI	TOP Combined termination procedure, including the administration/dispensing for medicines and aftercare	€300
AJ	Provision of aftercare by the contractor, where the patient has received termination of pregnancy service in a hospital and has been discharged to the community setting	€100

These fees are set out in Schedule 2 of the Termination of Pregnancy Scheme Contract. The HSE does not set fees under the contract and the fee levels are unchanged since 2019. The contract is available to view at the following link.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/gmscontracts/termination-of-pregnancy-draft-contract/termination-of-pregnancy-service-contract-nov-2019.pdf>

The cost of Termination of Pregnancy treatment for 2019 to 2021 by date of claim is outlined below.

Claim Date in Year	AH	AI	AJ	Total Cost of Claims
	Patients first consultation termination of pregnancy	Combined termination procedure and aftercare	TOP aftercare, patient received TOP in hospital and been discharged to community setting	
	Cost of Claims	Cost of Claims	Cost of Claims	
2019	€1,130,700	€1,845,600	€21,500	€2,997,800
2020	€1,221,300	€2,020,500	€17,600	€3,259,400
2021	€1,242,600	€2,004,900	€14,600	€3,262,100

Note: The figures outlined above are valid as of today's date however underlying data changes can occur after and change these reported figures. In some circumstances this can result in a minor discrepancy between reports for legitimate reasons of timing and data changes etc.

In relation to the spend within the acute hospital sector, the acute hospital system was allocated €7 million of recurring funding in 2019 to support the roll-out of termination services.

Within the acute hospital setting, funding was used to recruit additional personnel resources across a range of sites to implement this new service within the hospital sector. Resources supported by this investment included additional consultant obstetricians and gynaecologists, midwives and nurses, ultra-sonographers, theatre staff, bereavement specialists, administrators, medical social workers and pharmacists. These resources, whilst funded and established utilising funding provided to support termination of pregnancy services, have developed and being embedded within existing gynaecology and maternity services such that termination of pregnancy service is just one of the areas of responsibilities that they hold on the ground.

The funding allocated in 2019 has remained within the base budgets of the respective hospitals and continues to fund the relevant salaries etc.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mary-Jo Biggs, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme