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Re. **PQ 53129/22: To ask the Minister for Health the number of new patients who started anti-cancer therapy in each of the past ten years and to date in 2022, in tabular form**

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 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 dayward 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.
- Data prior to 2015 is not available.

Yours sincerely



Professor Risteárd Ó Laoide  
National Director  
National Cancer Control Programme

