



Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan
An Ceantar Theas
An Bothar Mileata
Cill Mhaighneann
BÁC 8

Acute Operations
Health Service Executive
Unit 4A - The Dargan Building
Heuston South Quarter
Military Road
Kilmainham
Dublin 8.

26th January 2023

Deputy Johnny Guirke,
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

PQ: 3779/23 To ask the Minister for Health the number of cancer surgeries postponed or cancelled each month in each of the years 2018 to 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Guirke,

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.

Response:

In relation to the collection of data associated with hospital cancellations for scheduled care activities in the context of your questions above. Hospitals and Hospital Groups working with the HSE in 2022 developed a robust process for the collection and collation of data on cancellations. Data collection commenced in February 2022 and over the subsequent months became streamlined and now forms as part of a process that is in place for weekly collection of data associated with Hospital initiated cancellations. The data collected covers a number of areas include OPD , IPDC , GI scoped and specifically chemotherapy in the context of your request and is provided in the attached documents. The information covers from Feb 2022 to Jan 2023.

Definition of a hospital initiated inpatient/day case cancellation:

A hospital-initiated cancellation of an outpatient or inpatient/day case procedure is defined as the rescheduling of a patient To Come In (TCI) date by the hospital due to circumstances beyond its control. It is important to note that the cancellations included in the report could represent in some cases patients who have been cancelled on more than one occasion.

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. Sick leave which impacts on service being given at the planned time

Rescheduling hospital appointments:

Hospitals endeavour to provide the patient with as much notice as possible in relation to the cancellation of elective appointments. The National Inpatient, Day Case, Planned Procedure (IDPP) waiting list management protocol 2017 issued by the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) 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 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.

I trust that this answers your question.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trish King', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Trish King
General Manager
Acute Operations