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Re.

**PQ4063/23:** To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients who completed radical radiotherapy treatment excluding palliative care patients in each month in each of the years 2018 to 2022, in tabular form.

**PQ4064/23:** To ask the Minister for Health the number and overall proportion of patients undergoing radical radiotherapy treatment who commenced treatment within fifteen working days of being deemed ready to treat by the radiation oncologist excluding palliative care patients in each month in each of the years 2018 to 2022.

8th<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Deputy Bacik,

The national cancer control programme (NCCP) collect key performance indicators (KPI) that measure time to treatment for radiation oncology as follows:

*The proportion of patients completing radical radiation therapy commenced treatment within 15 working days of being deemed ready to treat; target 90%.*

Tabulated data for the above KPI is given as follows when summed across all hospitals that submit this treatment KPI to NCCP:

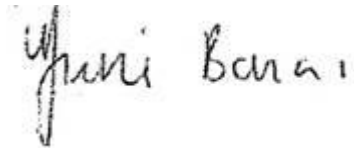
Radiation Oncology	Target	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>The number of patients who completed radical treatment for primary cancer</i>														
2018	*	5,522	427	403	406	432	469	471	501	465	450	517	521	460
2019	*	5,869	457	454	458	501	535	465	546	473	505	505	504	466
2020	*	5,607	523	483	523	471	426	432	515	425	444	438	468	459
2021	*	5,516	416	380	402	475	371	495	497	479	505	453	481	562
2022	*	5,959	395	438	485	491	490	539	500	536	526	477	553	529
<i>Timeline from ready to treat to date of first fraction was within 15 working days</i>														
2018	90%	83.4%	71.0%	78.7%	77.1%	78.9%	82.1%	83.4%	84.8%	92.9%	88.0%	85.7%	86.9%	87.6%
2019	90%	85.3%	87.5%	90.7%	85.2%	85.0%	89.3%	87.1%	83.3%	83.9%	84.6%	84.8%	83.9%	78.8%
2020	90%	83.2%	87.8%	85.3%	87.6%	85.8%	90.4%	92.1%	83.3%	77.6%	75.9%	77.4%	76.3%	77.8%
2021	90%	77.1%	78.8%	80.3%	82.6%	77.9%	77.9%	66.3%	67.0%	79.1%	81.8%	79.0%	76.7%	80.1%
2022	90%	71.4%	77.7%	74.0%	77.1%	74.1%	74.5%	72.7%	74.0%	71.8%	69.8%	71.9%	64.0%	58.0%

As it is not entirely clear from the wording of the request, we have assumed that the cohort of interest in PQ 4063/23 is the same as the one recorded by the radiation oncology KPI which is presented in PQ 4064/23.

Please note:

1. The KPI does not include patients receiving palliative radiation therapy.
2. Activity that was outsourced to private facilities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020/2021 and also the cyberattack in May/June 2021 may not be included in these figures.
3. Data for 2022 may not be complete for all submitting hospitals and is subject to change.

Yours sincerely



**Fiona Bonas**  
Assistant National Director  
National Cancer Control Programme

