



Colm Burke, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

2nd February 2023

PQ: 63636/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of opioids licensed for use in Ireland that have been dispensed as part of a public drug scheme or in a HSE hospital, psychiatric facility or primary care setting and by a private GP from 2011 to date in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Colm Burke

Dear Deputy Burke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 63636/23), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Please find below the results for number of opioids licensed for use in Ireland.

Scheme	Year	Description	No of Items dispensed
GMS	2011	Opioids	1,597,871
	2012	Opioids	1,713,866
	2013	Opioids	1,739,889
	2014	Opioids	1,726,153
	2015	Opioids	1,748,242
	2016	Opioids	1,788,516
	2017	Opioids	1,761,928
	2018	Opioids	1,779,014
	2019	Opioids	1,806,527
	2020	Opioids	1,858,034
	2021	Opioids	1,898,797
	Jan to Nov 2022	Opioids	1,744,950
Total			21,163,787

Scheme	Year	Description	No of Items dispensed
DPS	2011	Opioids	243,664
	2012	Opioids	233,518
	2013	Opioids	205,252
	2014	Opioids	202,230
	2015	Opioids	209,191
	2016	Opioids	209,025
	2017	Opioids	203,954
	2018	Opioids	207,384
	2019	Opioids	212,570
	2020	Opioids	225,033
	2021	Opioids	244,182
	Jan to Nov 2022	Opioids	279,433
Total			2,675,436

Scheme	Year	Description	No of Items dispensed
LTI	2011	Opioids	2,514
	2012	Opioids	2,241
	2013	Opioids	2,343
	2014	Opioids	4,049
	2015	Opioids	4,991
	2016	Opioids	5,162
	2017	Opioids	5,559
	2018	Opioids	6,024
	2019	Opioids	6,315
	2020	Opioids	6,328
	2021	Opioids	5,796
	Jan to Nov 2022	Opioids	5,007
Total			56,329

Please note:

- The information provided is based on claim data which has been received by the Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) from Community Pharmacists and includes items reimbursed by PCRS only.
- This data does not capture items dispensed outside of community drug schemes where the prescription has been paid for privately by the patient or patient representative.
- This data may not capture claims which are under the DPS monthly threshold amount.
- PCRS does not capture data in relation to diagnosis or indication.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service