

Colm Burke TD
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1st February 2023

Re:

PQ63675/22: To ask the Minister for Health the total number of persons who attended symptomatic breast disease clinics; the number and proportion who attended each quarter for each of the pathways, urgent recommended two weeks and non-urgent 12 weeks between 1 January 2015 to date in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ63673/22: To ask the Minister for Health the total number of persons who attended lung rapid access clinics; the number and proportion who attended within the recommended 20 working days each quarter between 1 January 2015 to date in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ63671/22: To ask the Minister for Health the total number of persons who attended prostate rapid access clinics; the number and proportion who attended within the recommended ten working days each quarter between 1 January 2015 to date in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Burke,

The total number of newly referred patients having first attendance at symptomatic breast disease clinics and triaged as urgent and the percentage of those seen within 10 working days of receipt of referral at the cancer centre is given in Table 1.

The total number of newly referred patients having first attendance at symptomatic breast disease clinics and triaged as non-urgent and the percentage of those seen within 12 weeks of receipt of referral at the cancer centre is given in Table 2.

The total number of newly referred patients having first attendance at rapid access lung clinics and the percentage of those seen within 10 working days of receipt of referral at the cancer centre is given in Table 3.

The total number of newly referred patients having first attendance at rapid access prostate clinics and the percentage of those seen within 20 working days of receipt of referral at the cancer centre is given in Table 4. Please note that the recommended timeframe for the rapid access prostate service is 20 working days and not 10 working days as stated in the original PQ request.

Please note the following caveats:

1. The data is for those new patients having first attendance at rapid assessment cancer clinics.
2. The increased demand on symptomatic breast disease clinics post pandemic has required symptomatic breast disease clinics to prioritise urgent referrals over non-urgent referrals, where the cancer detection rate in the former (urgent SBD referral cancer detection rate ~9%) is approximately 10 times higher than the latter (non-urgent SBD referral cancer detection rate <1%). Consequently, the proportion of non-urgent attendances relative to urgent attendances has dropped in 2020-2022 compared with that seen in 2019.
3. All data is subject to change/revision and was taken from a live snapshot of the NCCP KPI dataset on 24.01.2023.

Symptomatic breast disease clinics triaged as Urgent	Target	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
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New Attendances to symptomatic breast disease clinics triaged as Urgent

2015	*	17,255	3,925	4,264	4,351	4,715
2016	*	18,949	4,796	4,959	4,652	4,542
2017	*	19,267	5,025	4,745	4,658	4,839
2018	*	20,482	4,792	5,224	5,003	5,463
2019	*	20,905	5,338	5,406	5,006	5,155
2020	*	20,523	4,838	4,429	5,249	6,007
2021	*	25,380	6,032	6,210	6,561	6,577
2022	*	25,230	6,573	6,329	5,952	6,376

New Attendances to symptomatic breast disease clinics triaged as Urgent seen within 10 working days of referral

2015	95%	96.9%	94.9%	97.8%	95.7%	98.8%
2016	95%	87.8%	96.9%	80.8%	86.8%	86.9%
2017	95%	75.4%	79.5%	76.6%	66.0%	78.9%
2018	95%	75.0%	90.7%	57.2%	62.3%	90.0%
2019	95%	70.0%	69.3%	65.6%	74.5%	70.8%
2020	95%	70.5%	78.2%	80.9%	58.8%	66.7%
2021	95%	55.8%	72.2%	55.7%	43.7%	53.1%
2022	95%	70.8%	61.8%	74.2%	78.4%	69.4%

Table 1 - Total number of new patients triaged as urgent attending symptomatic breast disease clinics in the 8 cancer centres and one additional breast satellite clinic and the percentage seen within 10 working days; 2015 to 2022 by quarter.



Symptomatic breast disease clinics triaged as Non-Urgent	Target	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
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New Attendances to symptomatic breast disease clinics triaged as Non-Urgent

2015	*	23,061	6,189	5,777	5,480	5,615
2016	*	22,384	5,763	5,874	5,539	5,208
2017	*	21,546	5,651	5,332	5,550	5,013
2018	*	22,390	5,403	5,669	5,210	6,108
2019	*	21,917	5,267	6,016	5,282	5,352
2020	*	17,366	4,998	1,968	4,700	5,700
2021	*	18,595	4,443	4,777	4,451	4,924
2022	*	18,134	4,150	4,577	4,217	5,190

New Attendances to symptomatic breast disease clinics triaged as Non-Urgent seen within 12 weeks of referral

2015	95%	83.8%	80.5%	85.5%	84.0%	85.8%
2016	95%	72.8%	82.6%	76.7%	62.6%	68.1%
2017	95%	71.1%	74.8%	68.1%	69.2%	72.2%
2018	95%	68.1%	71.3%	71.8%	67.0%	62.8%
2019	95%	70.6%	66.5%	72.7%	70.9%	71.9%
2020	95%	57.0%	69.0%	55.6%	51.5%	51.5%
2021	95%	41.0%	47.6%	37.2%	37.1%	42.3%
2022	95%	51.5%	52.3%	42.5%	53.0%	57.8%

Table 2 - Total number of new patients triaged as non-urgent attending symptomatic breast disease clinics in the 8 cancer centres and one additional breast satellite clinic and the percentage seen within 12 weeks; 2015 to 2022 by quarter.

Lung Rapid Access Clinics	Target	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
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New Attendances to Rapid Access Lung Clinics

2015	*	3,128	857	794	720	757
2016	*	3,247	807	889	761	790
2017	*	3,426	891	917	808	810
2018	*	3,565	962	945	817	841
2019	*	3,606	883	896	938	889
2020	*	3,338	969	708	824	837
2021	*	3,678	829	792	1,033	1,024
2022	*	4,359	992	1,109	1,086	1,172

New Attendances to Rapid Access Lung Clinics within 10 working days of referral

2015	95%	85.5%	90.4%	80.7%	84.7%	85.7%
2016	95%	82.4%	86.0%	79.4%	79.1%	85.3%
2017	95%	83.5%	86.2%	80.4%	79.7%	87.7%
2018	95%	87.7%	86.6%	86.2%	88.0%	90.2%
2019	95%	87.1%	86.5%	88.2%	85.5%	88.2%
2020	95%	86.6%	80.0%	90.4%	89.6%	88.1%
2021	95%	89.7%	92.2%	92.2%	87.0%	88.7%
2022	95%	90.8%	87.8%	91.8%	87.9%	95.1%



Table 3 - Total number of new patients attending rapid access lung clinics in the 8 cancer centres and the percentage seen within 10 working days; 2015 to 2022 by quarter.

Prostate Rapid Access Clinics	Target	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
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New Attendances to Rapid Access Prostate Clinics

2015	*	2,559	698	656	611	594
2016	*	2,582	621	695	621	645
2017	*	3,018	762	768	757	731
2018	*	3,362	765	789	895	913
2019	*	3,822	877	1,109	980	856
2020	*	3,109	933	593	799	784
2021	*	3,623	841	794	904	1,084
2022	*	4,719	1,232	1,135	1,177	1,175

New Attendances to Rapid Access Prostate Clinics within 20 working days of referral

2015	90%	60.7%	60.9%	67.2%	58.9%	55.1%
2016	90%	53.5%	60.1%	46.2%	57.3%	51.3%
2017	90%	62.0%	42.1%	60.9%	66.6%	78.9%
2018	90%	78.3%	73.2%	81.4%	70.9%	87.3%
2019	90%	67.1%	78.9%	55.8%	72.9%	63.1%
2020	90%	55.1%	52.1%	51.1%	59.2%	57.4%
2021	90%	66.5%	55.8%	63.5%	70.9%	73.5%
2022	90%	82.0%	74.0%	81.1%	84.7%	88.6%

Table 4 - Total number of new patients attending rapid access prostate clinics in the 8 cancer centres and the percentage seen within 20 working days; 2015 to 2022 by quarter.

Yours sincerely



Patrick Cafferty
Assistant National Director
National Cancer Control Programme