



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.

25th July 2023

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

PQ 35069/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of hospital-initiated scheduled care cancellations, by appointment type, for each month for each year 2022-2023 to date, inclusive by hospital group and hospital, in tabular form.

PQ 35070/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of cancer-related appointments and procedures which were cancelled for each month for each year 2022-2023 to date, inclusive, by hospital, for adults and for children, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 response to your queries above the following information has been provided. Hospital-initiated scheduled care cancellations in each month of 2022 and from January to June inclusive, 2023, by Hospital Group, hospital and by appointment type in tabular form.

The current information collected does not have details of the patient condition such as cancer related appointments nor does it have specialty level detail i.e., orthopaedics.

It should be noted that this data collection process commenced in Q1 2022 and as such there are data gaps for the earlier part of this year. It should also be noted that data undergoes ongoing validation and is subject to change.

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
Acute Operations