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3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023

Re.

**PQ12660/23** - To ask the Minister for Health the number of people who started radiation therapy for cancer treatment within the recommended timeframe on a monthly basis between 1 January 2019 to date, in tabular form.

**PQ12666/23** To ask the Minister for Health the absolute number of people who started radiation therapy for cancer treatment, whether or not they started within the recommended timeframe, in each month between 1 January 2019 to date, in tabular form. **(NCCP is considering PQ12660/23 and PQ12666/23 as the same response and data)**

**PQ12663/23** - To ask the Minister for Health the number of people with prostate cancer who started radiation therapy within the recommended timeframe to start radiation therapy on a monthly basis between 1 January 2019 to date, in tabular form.

**PQ12662/23** - To ask the Minister for Health the number of people with breast cancer who started radiation therapy within the recommended timeframe to start radiation therapy on a monthly basis between 1 January 2019 to date, in tabular form.

**PQ12661/23** - To ask the Minister for Health the number of people with skin cancer who started radiation therapy within the recommended timeframe on a monthly basis between 1 January 2019 to the present date, in tabular form.

**PQ12664/23** - To ask the Minister for Health the number of people with cervical cancer who started radiation therapy within the recommended timeframe to start radiation therapy on a monthly basis between 1 January 2019 to date, in tabular form.

**PQ12665/23** - To ask the Minister for Health the number of people with head and neck cancer who started radiation therapy within the recommended timeframe to start radiation therapy on a monthly basis between 1 January 2019 to date, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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%. **(this response will cover both PQ12660 & PQ12666)***

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>         |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| 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> |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| 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% |

Please note:

1. The KPI does not include patients receiving palliative radiation therapy.
2. Activity that was outsourced to private facilities may not have been included in these figures.
3. There was a cyberattack in May/June 2021.
4. Data for 2022 may not be complete for all submitting hospitals and is subject to change.

In addition to the radiation oncology KPI presented above, the NCCP also record this data on a quarterly basis for patients with primary prostate cancer as follows:

| Radiation Oncology Prostate Cancer  | Total | Q1    | Q2    | Q3    | Q4    |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <i>The number of patients who completed radical treatment for primary prostate cancer</i> |       |       |       |       |       |
| 2019  | 948   | 201   | 235   | 254   | 258   |
| 2020  | 952   | 286   | 133   | 277   | 256   |
| 2021  | 989   | 225   | 291   | 246   | 227   |
| 2022  | 921   | 173   | 268   | 309   | 171   |
| <i>Timeline from ready to treat to date of first fraction was within 15 working days</i>  |       |       |       |       |       |
| 2019  | 75.7% | 84.6% | 77.9% | 68.5% | 74.0% |
| 2020  | 63.1% | 83.2% | 82.0% | 44.8% | 50.8% |
| 2021  | 57.9% | 52.0% | 50.2% | 57.7% | 74.0% |
| 2022  | 61.2% | 68.2% | 56.3% | 64.1% | 56.7% |

Please note:

1. The KPI does not include patients receiving palliative radiation therapy.
2. Activity that was outsourced to private facilities may not have been included in these figures.
3. There was a cyberattack in May/June 2021.
4. Data for 2022 may not be complete for all submitting hospitals and is subject to change.

The NCCP collect quarterly radiation oncology KPI data on a subset of breast surgery patients as follows:

*For primary invasive or in situ tumours, following surgery, patients who require radiation therapy alone shall commence treatment within 12 weeks (less than or equal to 84 days) of the final surgical procedure.*



| Breast Surgery + Radiation Therapy Alone | Total | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
|--|-------|----|----|----|----|
|--|-------|----|----|----|----|

The number of patients who have undergone surgical treatment and require radiation therapy alone, and have commenced treatment

|      |     |     |     |     |     |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 2019 | 775 | 165 | 172 | 244 | 194 |
| 2020 | 694 | 200 | 203 | 134 | 157 |
| 2021 | 680 | 164 | 189 | 163 | 164 |
| 2022 | 349 | 127 | 115 | 107 | *   |

The percentage who commenced treatment within 12 weeks (less than or equal to 84 days) of their final therapeutic surgical procedure

|      |       |       |       |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2019 | 83.9% | 80.0% | 83.1% | 85.7% | 85.6% |
| 2020 | 83.0% | 81.5% | 79.8% | 86.6% | 86.0% |
| 2021 | 88.5% | 82.3% | 91.5% | 89.0% | 90.9% |
| 2022 | 70.5% | 71.7% | 86.1% | 52.3% | *     |

For primary invasive or in situ tumours, following surgery, patients who require adjuvant chemotherapy and radiation therapy, shall commence radiation therapy within 4 weeks (less than or equal to 28 days) of completing chemotherapy.

| Breast Surgery + Adjuvant Chemo + Radiation Therapy | Total | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
|---|-------|----|----|----|----|
|---|-------|----|----|----|----|

The number of patients who have undergone surgical treatment and require both adjuvant chemotherapy and radiation therapy, and commenced radiation therapy having completed chemotherapy

|      |     |     |    |     |     |
|------|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|
| 2019 | 342 | 48  | 82 | 111 | 101 |
| 2020 | 367 | 105 | 66 | 109 | 87  |
| 2021 | 342 | 73  | 97 | 76  | 96  |
| 2022 | 169 | 62  | 60 | 47  | *   |

The percentage who commenced radiation therapy within 4 weeks (less than or equal to 28 days) of completing chemotherapy

|      |       |       |       |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2019 | 73.1% | 75.0% | 70.7% | 74.8% | 72.3% |
| 2020 | 64.0% | 64.8% | 65.2% | 61.5% | 65.5% |
| 2021 | 70.5% | 68.5% | 67.0% | 72.4% | 74.0% |
| 2022 | 72.8% | 82.3% | 68.3% | 66.0% | *     |

Please note that data for 2022 is not complete for all submitting hospitals and is subject to change.

The NCCP does not record the specific breakdown of the radiation oncology KPI for patients with skin, cervical or head and neck cancer types.

Yours sincerely,



Patrick Cafferty  
Assistant National Director  
National Cancer Control Programme

