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3rd April 2023

Re.

PQ12825/23 - 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.

PQ12828/23 - 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.

PQ12827/23 - 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.

PQ12826/23 - 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 date, in tabular form.

PQ12830/23 - 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 Cullinane,

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>														
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.

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
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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
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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 or head and neck cancer types.

Yours sincerely,



Patrick Cafferty
Assistant National Director
National Cancer Control Programme

