

Deputy Réada Cronin
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2
D02 XR20

3rd of April 2023

RE: PQ ref 13151/23

RE: To ask the Minister for Health the number of hospital-initiated scheduled care cancellations by Naas General Hospital, by appointment type, in each of the months of 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cronin,

Please find accompanying this letter a spreadsheet detailing the requested information.

In relation to the collection of data associated with hospital cancellations for scheduled care, Naas General Hospital (NGH) has been working with the HSE to develop a process for the collection and collation of data on cancellations. Data collection commenced in February 2022 and over the subsequent months became streamlined and now is part of a robust process that is in place for the weekly collection of data associated with Hospital initiated cancellations.

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 Emergency Department (ED) attendance 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:

Naas General Hospital endeavours to provide our patients 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.

NGH has been significantly challenged throughout Winter 2022/2023 in relation to surges in attendance to our Emergency Department together with infection outbreaks within the hospital and associated staff sick leave. One of our contingency measures is the cancellation of scheduled care appointments only when all other contingencies have been explored. We regret when a patient is cancelled and endeavour to reschedule as soon as is reasonably possible.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Niamh Barrett

Interim General Manager