



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta  
Géaroibríochtaí

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Deputy Emer Higgins  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

14<sup>th</sup> June 2023

***PQ 25755/23 – To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a breakdown of the number of hospitalisations related to the use of a substance such as hallucinogens, cannabinoids, cannabis, cocaine, lysergic acid diethylamide and heroin in each of the years 2018 to 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Emer Higgins***

Dear Deputy Higgins,

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.

HIPE is a health information system, managed by the Healthcare Pricing Office (HPO) of HSE Finance and is designed to collect clinical and administrative data on discharges from, and deaths in, acute public hospitals in Ireland. HIPE discharges are clinically coded from charts in the hospitals, this includes translating medical terminology into alpha-numeric code and using the entire chart to extract the conditions and procedures to create an adequate picture of the patient's health care encounter.

HIPE colleagues have advised that they are able to provide some information for this request but not specifically in the categories outlined. Analysis is based on a selection of diagnosis codes that are used for other similar type requests on drug misuse.

Please find attached HIPE data based on discharges with any diagnosis from a selected list drug related diagnosis codes. If multiple diagnosis codes from the specified list occur in the same episode of care then only the first occurring code.

Please note that the HIPE system is not an operational database, it is not updated nationally at the HPO on a real-time or daily basis and is also not considered final until it is closed in the following year. Currently the data for 2023 is not fully coded, therefore the HPO do not have a full picture of the deaths, diagnoses or procedures carried out in 2023 to date.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Nessa Lynch**  
**General Manager**  
**Acute Operations**