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Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
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5th March 2024

Deputy Michael Collins TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re PQ 2713 24: *To ask the Minister for Health the amount of money spent on abortion provision in 2023, broken down by category; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Collins,

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. Your PQ above has been referred to me for response.

Please see **Appendix 1** below with data provided by the Healthcare Pricing Office (HPO). I draw your attention to all notes attached to the data. The data provided is based on episodes with a principal diagnosis from the following list of diagnosis codes for the year 2022. The overall estimated cost of these episodes is also provided.

- O04 Medical abortion
- O05 Other abortion
- O06 Unspecified abortion
- O07 Failed attempted abortion
- O08 Complications following abortion and ectopic and molar pregnancy

(Please note that codes from category O08 Complications following abortion and ectopic and molar pregnancy are not specific to complications following termination, the codes in this category can also be applied following miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy etc.).

Please also note the following:

- HIPE (Hospital In-Patient Enquiry) is a discharge based dataset. A patient may be admitted to and discharged from hospital several times in a given year. Each discharge for this patient would be recorded in HIPE. In the absence of a unique patient identifier, it is not possible to use HIPE to examine the number of hospital encounters per patient, or to estimate the incidence or prevalence of disease or condition.
- The data provided does not include episodes with an additional diagnosis from the specified list of codes. HPO generally do not provide costs based on secondary diagnosis since these may not be the principal reason for admission to hospital.
- Acute admitted discharges (daycase and in-patient) are reported only. HIPE does not collect activity on outpatient or emergency department attendances.
- HIPE cannot be used to distinguish the reason for abortion.

In addition to the costs provided by the HPO in Appendix 1, the National Contracts Office have provided the costs for Community Based Termination of Pregnancy in 2022 which was €5,628,166 and includes PCRS Claim expenditure, TOP medication, National Costs and Local



level costs (My Options freephone helpline, Translation Services etc) Advertising and ICGP training costs (Irish College of General Practitioners).

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at sarah.anderson1@hse.ie or tel: 087 9423319.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Anderson

Sarah Anderson
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HSE National Finance Division
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Appendix 1 to PQ 2713 24

Table 1

Source : HIPE, Healthcare Pricing Office		
Date: February 2024		
<p>The information provided by the Healthcare Pricing Office will not be used for any other purpose other than stated and will not be given to or used by any third parties.</p> <p>The storage and distribution of this information is the sole responsibility of the recipient and should be carried out in accordance with HSE data protection guidelines.</p> <p>If information contained within this file are used in other reports then as a minimum requirement the source information must also be quoted.</p> <p>This file information should not be removed when storing, distributing, or displaying the information contained within this file.</p>		
Notes:		
Daycase and in-patient discharges are reported only. HIPE does not collect activity on outpatients, emergency department attendances, psychiatric units or long term stay units.		
HIPE data is based on hospitalisations which may include multiple admissions for the same patient. Therefore, it is not possible to use HIPE to examine certain parameters such as the number of hospital encounters per patient, or to estimate incidence or prevalence of disease.		
Diagnosis and Procedures are coded using ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS (From 2020 the 10th edition is used).		
ICD-10-AM is the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision, Australian Modification.		
The ICD-10-AM disease component is based on the World Health Organisation (WHO) ICD-10. ICD-10-AM is used in conjunction with the Australian Classification of Health Interventions (ACHI), and the Australian Coding Standards (ACS) to reflect an accurate health episode of care.		
<p>Please note that the 2022 data provided does not include any public activity performed in private hospitals under the private hospital agreements that were in place for those years.</p>		
Definitions:		
Principal Diagnosis is the diagnosis established after study to be chiefly responsible for occasioning an episode of admitted patient care, an episode of residential care, or an attendance at the health care establishment, as represented by a code.		
Source: National Casemix and Classification Centre (NCCC), 2013: The International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Australian Modification (8th Ed): Australian Coding Standards. NCCC, Australian Health Services Research Institute, University of Wollongong.		
Table 1: Discharges from acute hospitals with a principal diagnosis from the specified list of abortion diagnosis codes, reported to HIPE, 2022		
	2022	
	N	Estimated Cost (€)
Total	1,049	1,783,240
ICD-10-AM diagnosis Codes (10th Edition)		
O04 Medical abortion		
O05 Other abortion		
O06 Unspecified abortion		
O07 Failed attempted abortion		
O08 Complications following abortion and ectopic and molar pregnancy ^a		
<p>a: Please note that codes from category O08 Complications following abortion and ectopic and molar pregnancy are not specific to complications following termination, the codes in this category can also be applied following miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy etc.</p>		
<p>The data provided does not include episodes with an additional diagnosis from the specified list of codes. The HPO generally does not provide costs based on secondary diagnosis since these may not be the principal reason for admission to hospital. HIPE cannot be used to distinguish the reason for abortion.</p>		