



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

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3rd May, 2024

Deputy Ó Ríordáin
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 20299/24: To ask the Minister for Health if his Department has an assessment of the number of bed days have been saved in the past three years as a result of the national outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy programme

-Aodhán Ó Ríordáin

Dear Deputy Ó Ríordáin,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 20299/24) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT) is the delivery of intravenous (IV) antimicrobials in the community or outpatient setting, as an alternative to inpatient care.

The National OPAT Programme was established in 2011 to ensure the safe, appropriate and cost-effective use of OPAT (Home IV antibiotics). The OPAT programme allows for suitable patients on IV antibiotics to be discharged early from hospital to be treated in their home or community setting. The aim of OPAT is to ensure that no patient receiving antimicrobials, who could be treated out of hospital, remains in hospital.

Bed Days Saved are calculated based on the length of time a patient is referred for treatment to the OPAT Programme.

Table 1 reflects the Bed Days Saved per annum for patients treated under the OPAT Programme:

	2021	2022	2023
Bed Days Saved	33,227	38,105	39,772

I trust the above is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations

