



Stiúrthóir Rochtana

Oifig an Stiúthóra Náisiúnta um Rochtain agus Imeascadh

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Deputy Bernard J. Durkan

16th October 2024

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2.

PQ: 39653/24 - To ask the Minister for Health the total number of locations at which treatment for cataracts, spina bifida and scoliosis can be treated in this country, public or private, and is readily available or available the national treatment purchase scheme; the number of patients currently being treated at such locations; the extent to which waiting lists are being reduced as a result; the cost differential between public and private treatments; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Durkan,

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.

Response:

In relation to treatment for cataracts, spina bifida and scoliosis treatments that have taken place, where the patient was treated as an inpatient or a day case have been provided in tables 1 – 3 below.

Published information in relation to the costs associated with activity delivered by the Health Pricing Office (HPO) is available in the “ABF 2023 Admitted Patient Price List” at the following link [ABF 2023 Admitted Patient Price List - HPO \(hpowp.com\)](https://hpowp.com).

The NTPF website [National Treatment Purchase Fund \(NTPF\)](https://www.ntpf.ie) provides details of the private hospitals that the NTPF have arrangements with. The HSE do not hold specific information in relation to activity, costs or available capacity of private hospitals, via the public or via the NTPF.



Table 1. Below provides details the total elective discharges from acute hospitals reported to HIPE, with a procedure from the specified list of lens procedure codes, by hospital, 2022-2023*, Inpatient/Daycase Cataract treatments by site.

Table 1. Inpatient/Daycase Cataract treatments by site

Hospital Name	2022	2023
Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital	3,996	4,634
Sligo University Hospital	1,834	1,855
Mater Misericordiae University Hospital	1,247	2,085
University Hospital Limerick	1,099	1,417
South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital	1,137	1,319
University Hospital Waterford	833	1,219
Nenagh Hospital	958	920
Galway University Hospitals	610	703
St. Vincent's University Hospital	449	476
Louth County Hospital	271	320
Letterkenny University Hospital	85	90
CHI at Temple St	36	39
Beaumont Hospital	26	36
CHI at Crumlin	16	19
Total	12,597	15,132
*In ICD-10-AM Version 10, coding of cataract procedures requires assignment of a code from block [193] Insertion of intraocular prosthesis to specify the lens insertion and a code from block [200] Extraction of crystalline lens to specify the type of lens extraction. Data Source: HPO Date: October 2024		



Table 2. Below provides details the total elective discharges from acute hospitals reported to HIPE, with a principal diagnosis from the specified list of scoliosis diagnosis codes, and a surgical DRG, by hospital, 2022-2023** , Inpatient/Daycase Scoliosis treatments by site.

Table 2. Inpatient/Daycase Scoliosis treatments by site

Hospital Name	2022	2023
CHI at Crumlin	176	161
CHI at Temple St	62	59
National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh	30	23
Mater Misericordiae University Hospital	13	15
Galway University Hospitals	~	~
Tallaght Hospital - Adults	~	~
St. Columcille's Hospital	~	0
St Josephs Raheny	0	~
Total	285	263

**Diagnosis Related Group (DRG): Diagnosis Related Groups are designed to group cases which are clinically similar, and which are expected to consume similar amount of resources. DRGs and Casemix systems are widely used internationally to manage and fund healthcare systems as well as for performance and quality monitoring. The DRGs are identified by a four-character code followed by a description of the DRGs content. The second and third characters of the four-character code are numeric and they identify the partition to which the DRG belongs.

Partitions are identified as follows:

- DRGs numbered 01-39 indicate that they are surgical
- DRGs numbered 40-57 indicate that they are "other"
- DRGs numbered 60-99 indicate that they are medical

The scoliosis and spina bifida cases provided in the tables above are those that fall into a surgical DRG partition.

Data Source: HPO

Date: October 2024

Numbers of 5 or less have been replaced with ~



Table 3. Below provides details the total elective discharges from acute hospitals reported to HIPE, with a principal diagnosis from the specified list of spina bifida diagnosis codes, and a surgical DRG, by hospital, 2022-2023***, Inpatient/Daycase Spina bifida treatments by site.

Table 3. Inpatient/Daycase Spina bifida treatments by site

Hospital Name	2022	2023
CHI at Temple St	~	6
CHI at Crumlin	~	~
National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh	~	~
South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital	~	~
Beaumont Hospital	0	~
St. James's Hospital	~	0
Total	11	12
<p>**Diagnosis Related Group (DRG): Diagnosis Related Groups are designed to group cases which are clinically similar, and which are expected to consume similar amount of resources. DRGs and Casemix systems are widely used internationally to manage and fund healthcare systems as well as for performance and quality monitoring. The DRGs are identified by a four-character code followed by a description of the DRGs content. The second and third characters of the four-character code are numeric and they identify the partition to which the DRG belongs.</p> <p>Partitions are identified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- DRGs numbered 01-39 indicate that they are surgical- DRGs numbered 40-57 indicate that they are "other"- DRGs numbered 60-99 indicate that they are medical <p>The scoliosis and spina bifida cases provided in the tables above are those that fall into a surgical DRG partition.</p> <p>Data Source: HPO</p> <p>Date: October 2024</p> <p>Numbers of 5 or less have been replaced with ~</p>		

The 2024 Waiting List Action Plan built on the work achieved in previous plans and is available at <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/f4944-waiting-list-action-plan-2024/>. The plan is making significant progress in relation to waiting lists, and progress made in addressing long waiting times. Both Ophthalmology and Scoliosis are focus areas in the plan. The plan also includes work with the NTPF in the context of this specialty area.



I trust that this addresses your query.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Trish King'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'K'.

Trish King,
Access & Integration