



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta
um Rochtain agus Imeascadh

Ospideal an Dr. Steevens
Baile Atha Cliath, D08 W2A8

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Deputy Cathal Crowe
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

15th April 2025

PQ 15569/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients classed as leave before treatment completed at hospitals (details supplied) in 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Cathal Crowe

Details Supplied: Beaumont Hospital, St James' Hospital, St Vincent's Hospital, Galway University Hospital, Cork University Hospital and University Hospital Limerick

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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.

The HSE Business Information Unit (BIU) is a central repository for activity information for Acute and Non Acute Services. The BIU collects, collates and validates extensive amounts of data which is used in performance monitoring and measurement to support the HSE in operational and strategic decisions.

The HSE currently reports the number of patients who registered yet decided not to wait within its Emergency Departments (EDs). Patients may choose to leave before triage, after triage or prior to a decision to admit or discharge home. The data does not distinguish or categorise patients that may require admission but left ED before admission or treatment.

The purpose of EDs is to deal with serious and unexpected illness and injury. EDs and their associated hospitals must clinically prioritise people who must be treated first, and those who may need to wait, or those who may need to attend a more appropriate care setting. To ensure this process is clinically safe for patients, Irish hospitals use the internationally tested Manchester Triage Tool which prioritises patients into a number of categories based on their clinical needs. Where a patient is seriously ill or injured, their needs will be prioritised above those with less serious conditions.

However, as demand inevitably overtakes capacity, prioritisation and consequential waiting may occur. In this regard, patients with less serious needs may choose to avail of alternative options. Many people, whose clinical needs could be more appropriately addressed by self-care, pharmacists, GPs, GP Out of Hours Services and Injury Units, continue to attend EDs. In Ireland, approximately 27% of those attending are actually admitted to hospital.

The information requested has been provided in the attached Excel file supplied by the BIU

I trust this is of assistance to you.



Yours Sincerely,

Nessa Lynch
General Manager
Access & Integration



Please note data contained in this report is preliminary and may be subject to change

If information contained within this file is used in other reports then as a minimum requirement BIU must be referenced.



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| Provider | Did Not Wait |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Beaumont Hospital | 3,594 |
| Cork University Hospital | 3,573 |
| Galway University Hospitals | 3,404 |
| St. James's Hospital | 7,054 |
| St. Vincent's University Hospital | 5,308 |
| UH Limerick | 6,062 |

The Information is based on Emergency Department attendances, with a discharge destination recorded as did



not wait.