HSE

Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta um Rochtain agus Imeascadh	Office of the National Director Access and Integration	www.hse.ie @hselive
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Deputy Joe Cooney
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

15th April 2025

PQ 15623/25 - To ask the Minister for Health to provide data for the Model 4 hospitals (Beaumont, St. James's, St. Vincent's, University Hospital Galway, Cork University Hospital and University Hospital Limerick) for the 2024 calendar year, in tabular form; the number of patients presenting at the emergency department (ED); the number of those patients presenting at EDs that were admitted for the year; the number of those leaving before treatment complete (LBTC) for 2024; the number of LBTCs that returned within 30 days; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Joe Cooney

Dear Deputy Cooney,

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 is experiencing an increase in ED attendances year to date with a significant increase in the number of patients aged 75 and over attending EDs with complex care needs, and often requiring admission to the acute hospital for treatment and in turn requiring supports on discharge.

On a daily basis, regardless of season, the HSE health regions optimise capacity to meet demand from both scheduled and unscheduled care.
Factors that influence meeting demand and facilitating admissions to hospital beds include; increased ED demand, infection prevention and control, staffing, availability of community and stepdown beds, availability of surge capacity.

There has been a collective effort right across our services throughout this winter period, with teams working tirelessly to ensure patients receive the best care possible. In the latter half of 2024 we saw an increase in the presence of senior clinical decision-makers and support services in our acute hospitals at weekends, and this helped reduce the build-up of numbers on trolleys at and immediately after weekends.

Please see the below link to the Urgent and emergency care report (daily).
https://www2.hse.ie/services/urgent-emergency-care-report/

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 on attendances, admissions and numbers of people who chose to not wait has been provided in the attached Excel file supplied by the BIU. The BIU advised it cannot identify the number of leave before treatment completed patients who returned within 30 days of leaving hospital as this data is not collected.

Please see the data notes on the Excel file, and outlined below:

Data notes:

- The number of left before treatment that returned within 30 days is not available.
- Please note Admitted Discharge Destination includes - Discharged to Clinical Decision Unit (CDU), Referred to Acute Medical Assessment Unit (AMU) and Admitted to Ward.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

Nessa Lynch
General Manager
Access & Integration

Information Request Number: PQ 15623/25
Date report created: 09/04/2025
Data Source: PET Data

Subject: PQ15623/25To ask the Minister for Health to provide data for the Model 4 hospitals (Beaumont, St. James's, St. Vincent's, University Hospital Galway, Cork University Hospital and University Hospital Limerick) for the 2024 calendar year, in tabular form; the number of patients presenting at the emergency department (ED); the number of those patients presenting at EDs that were admitted for the year; the number of those leaving before treatment complete (LBTC) for 2024; the number of LBTCs that returned within 30 days; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Joe Cooney

Note: the number of left before treatment that returned within 30 days is not available
*Please note Admitted Discharge Destination includes - Discharged to CDU, Referred to AMU and Admitted to Ward

Provider	Attendances	Admissions	Did Not Wait
Beaumont Hospital	66,349	18,196	3,594
Cork University Hospital	87,393	24,070	3,573
Galway University Hospitals	81,196	19,982	3,404
St. James's Hospital	59,995	15,958	7,054
St. Vincent's University Hospital	67,042	16,876	5,308
UH Limerick	87,195	28,322	6,062