



Deputy Pádraig Rice
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

7th May 2025

PQ 17508/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for a mammogram, by site, wait time and referral type (details supplied), in tabular form. -Pádraig Rice

Details Supplied: Urgent, early and routine referrals

Dear Deputy Rice,

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.

Access and Integration contacted colleagues in the Health Regions offices for information, in order to respond to your question.

Please note colleagues in the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) advised that women who present with signs and symptoms most suspicious of cancer are referred by their GP, based on the national GP referral guideline, to the symptomatic breast disease (SBD) clinic for assessment. Within the SBD clinics, a patient may receive a triple assessment. This means they are assessed by a breast surgeon and may receive additional tests including a mammogram and/or ultrasound, a core biopsy or fine needle aspiration. The tests that are performed depends on the clinical findings. It should be noted that not all patients who attend the SBD clinic require triple assessment. It should also be noted, that as part of the [national GP referral guideline](#), GPs may refer a patient directly for mammography only, where there is no clinical suspicion of cancer.

Please see the included Excel file which collates the responses received. The total numbers in each hospital waiting on a mammogram will include those referred via the symptomatic service, via the GP mammography only pathway and those who are scheduled for routine surveillance mammography (routine follow up imaging i.e. 6 month/ 12 month/ 24 month). It is not possible to separate out those scheduled waiters and so as a result a patient may be on the list for more than 12 weeks for imaging but their imaging may not be due for another 6/12 months.

The below information was sent by HSE South West, in lieu of completing the template:

The only Hospital that performs Mammograms within the South West Region is Cork University Hospital (CUH). However, CUH does not hold a mammogram waiting list. If a patient does require a mammogram, they receive this when they attend the Triple Assessment Clinic in the Breast Service. The current waiting time to attend the Triple Assessment Clinic for an urgent patient is 10 days and for a routine patient is between 12 – 14 weeks.

I trust this is of assistance to you.



Yours Sincerely,

John Smith
Assistant National Director
Access and Integration

HSE Dublin and South East				
PQ 17508/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for a mammogram, by site, wait time and referral type (details supplied), in tabular form. -Pádraig Rice				
Details Supplied: Urgent, early and routine referrals				
Routine Referrals				
Site	Number of people waiting less than two weeks	Number of people waiting between two and twelve weeks	Number of people waiting more than twelve weeks	Total Routine Referrals
St. Vincent's University Hospital	0	405	125	530
University Hospital Waterford	230	435	1038	1703
Please note as follows: For routine referrals the imaging may be requested for follow up i.e. 6 month/ 12 month/ 24 month. It is not possible to separate out those scheduled waiters and so as a result a patient may be waiting more than 12 weeks for imaging but their imaging may not be due for another 6/12 months				
Urgent Referrals				
Site	Number of people waiting less than two weeks	Number of people waiting between two and twelve weeks	Number of people waiting more than twelve weeks	Total Urgent Referrals
St. Vincent's University Hospital	0	75	0	75
University Hospital Waterford	21	106	185	312

HSE Dublin and North East				
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Beaumont Hospital				
Routine Referrals				
	Numbers of people waiting less than two weeks	Numbers of people waiting between two and twelve weeks	Numbers of people waiting more than twelve weeks	Total Routine Referrals
	235	571	337	1143
Urgent Referrals				
	Numbers of people waiting less than two weeks	Numbers of people waiting between two and twelve weeks	Numbers of people waiting more than twelve weeks	Total Urgent Referrals
	1	12	17	30
To address this wait list the following measures are in place: - 60 additional patients are being facilitated per month either in breast imaging sessions that are taking place in the breast centre out of hours or via an outsourcing arrangement to the Hermitage Clinic				
The Mater Misericordiae University Hospital				
Routine Referrals				
	Numbers of people waiting less than two weeks	Numbers of people waiting between two and twelve weeks	Numbers of people waiting more than twelve weeks	Total Routine Referrals
	538	1418	1857	3813
Urgent Referrals				
	Numbers of people waiting less than two weeks	Numbers of people waiting between two and twelve weeks	Numbers of people waiting more than twelve weeks	Total Urgent Referrals
	27	133	94	254
Included: All mammogram orders currently on list awaiting a date (including surveillance mammograms with planned / indicative dates)				

HSE Mid West				
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University Hospital Limerick				
Routine Referrals	Numbers of people waiting less than two weeks	Numbers of people waiting between two and twelve weeks	Numbers of people waiting more than twelve weeks	Total Routine Referrals
	374	818	952	2144
Urgent Referrals	Numbers of people waiting less than two weeks	Numbers of people waiting between two and twelve weeks	Numbers of people waiting more than twelve weeks	Total Urgent Referrals
	55	57	10	122

HSE Dublin and Midlands

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Details Supplied: Urgent, early and routine referrals

St. James's Hospital

Numbers of people waiting less than two weeks	Numbers of people waiting between 2-12 weeks	Numbers of people waiting more than 12 weeks	Total Requiring Mammogram (Q1,2025)
827	68	1	896

Please note that the NCCP KPI is: Breast imaging requests (that is, mammography or ultrasound) for new patients shall be carried out within 12 weeks of the consultant surgeon's assessment in the specialist clinic.

This is irrespective of their referral type.

HSE West and North West				
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Routine Referrals				
	Numbers of people waiting less than two weeks	Numbers of people waiting between two and twelve weeks	Numbers of people waiting more than twelve weeks	Total Routine Referrals
Galway University Hospitals	Surveillance mammograms are performed on a yearly basis and are scheduled as close as possible to the specified date.	136	324	1388. There is a backlog currently due to mammographer staffing deficits.
Urgent Referrals				
	Numbers of people waiting less than two weeks	Numbers of people waiting between two and twelve weeks	Numbers of people waiting more than twelve weeks	Total Urgent Referrals
Galway University Hospitals	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N.B.				
*Mammograms are not performed in PUH, RUH or SUH.				
**MUH have no data on Mammography waiting lists. The service is run by UHG Mammography Service, where all bookings are made through UHG. (PCC Moneen Mammography is a satellite of their service).				
***LUH has a Symptomatic Breast Unit, which facilitates Triple Assessment Clinics. Patients are referred to the clinics and triaged as urgent or early referrals. Under the NCCP KPIs urgent referrals should be seen within 10 working days and early referrals should be seen within 84 working days.				
In March 2025, there were 116 urgent referrals to the Symptomatic Breast Unit, of which 115 were seen within the KPI of 10 working days. Patients attending the Breast Unit will have a mammogram during their visit if clinically indicated.				
156 early referrals were seen in March and would have had a mammogram if clinically indicated.				
There is a waiting list for early referrals of 367 referrals to the Symptomatic Breast Unit. Additional clinics are being facilitated on Saturday 26 th April to reduce this waiting list.				
LUH do not have mammography only clinics and therefore have no waiting list.				