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30<sup>th</sup> July 2025

**Re.**

**PQ 41097/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients who began chemotherapy treatment in each of the past ten years and to date in 2025, by county, in tabular form.**

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

The National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) collects limited summary data on systemic anti-cancer therapy (SACT).

For patients receiving a new parenteral systemic therapy in the day ward setting, the recommended timeline standard between the date that it is agreed that the patient is deemed ready to treat and the administration of the new parenteral systemic therapy will not exceed 15 working days. The recommended target for operational compliance is 90% as approximately 10% of patients can be expected to have more complex needs that confound or delay treatment.

The number of patients who received a new parenteral systemic therapy in the day ward setting is tabulated as follows for each of the Health Regions:

Health Region	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
HSE Dublin and North East	1,496	1,569	1,527	1,537	1,631	1,497	1,634	1,638	2,044	2,075	1,022
HSE Dublin and Midlands	1,655	1,548	1,544	1,376	1,825	1,707	1,770	1,885	1,934	1,849	930
HSE Dublin and South East	967	1,206	1,449	1,297	1,579	1,197	1,348	1,401	1,427	1,546	739
HSE South West	1,045	939	841	1,175	1,318	1,391	1,338	1,412	1,396	1,596	816
HSE Mid West	423	464	523	568	609	549	606	643	719	792	383
HSE West and North West	1,245	1,269	1,335	1,288	1,290	1,342	1,451	1,527	1,543	1,431	640
Total	6,831	6,995	7,219	7,241	8,252	7,683	8,147	8,506	9,063	9,289	4,530

The data is not captured by county, so data is presented by Health Region instead.

The treating SACT units in each health region are:

HSE Dublin and North East = Beaumont, Connolly, Drogheda, Cavan, Mater.

HSE Dublin and Midlands = St. James's, Naas, Tallaght, Tullamore, St. Luke's Rathgar.

HSE Dublin and South East = St. Vincent's, St. Luke's Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford.

HSE South West = Cork, Kerry, Mercy, South Infirmary.

HSE Mid West = Limerick.

HSE West and North West = Galway, Letterkenny, Mayo, Portlincula, Sligo.

New parenteral systemic therapy means a new patient starting a regimen, or a patient starting a new regimen who previously had cancer or a patient who has had a change in regimen than involves additional new drugs.

New parenteral systemic therapy excludes patients who are on their 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle, even if new to the hospital, and patients who reduce the number of drugs used in the regimen.

Please note the following caveats when interpreting the data:

- SACT treatment of new patients starting systemic parenteral treatment in the day ward setting is only a small subset of overall chemotherapy activity i.e. it does not include patients continuing treatment or any patients on Oral Anti-cancer Medications (OAMs).
- Parenteral SACT day ward activity that was outsourced to private facilities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020/2021 may not be included in these figures.
- Data for 2025 is for January to June and may not be complete for all submitting hospitals and is subject to change.

Yours sincerely

Patricia Heckmann  
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National Cancer Control Programme