



Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon

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19th August, 2025.

Deputy Pádraig Rice TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare St., Dublin 2.

Email: padraig.rice@oireachtas.ie

RE: PQ 42792/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE nurses working in chemotherapy wards in each of the relevant hospitals managed by Saolta Hospital Group; how this compares to optimum staffing levels; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

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. I have examined the matter in respect of the West and North West region and the following outlines the position:

Below are the current number of WTE nurses working in chemotherapy wards, per hospital, in HSE West and North West:

Hospital x Ward	No. of WTE's	Comment
Galway University Hospitals - St. Joseph's Ward - Claddagh Ward - Haematology/Oncology Day Ward	25.84 25.55 18.36	We continue to seek approval for vacant posts that exist, some of which are for maternity leave. It is anticipated that some of the vacancies will be filled by new nursing graduates who will commence in September 2025.
Portiuncula University Hospital - Oncology Day Service	10.93	This number reflects the actual WTE that we currently have in the Oncology Day Services, which provides chemotherapy treatment. The staff on the Oncology ward will have other roles as well as providing chemotherapy. We continue to seek approval for vacant CNM1 post for the Oncology Day Ward.



Mayo University Hospital - Oncology Day Unit	8	The total approved Nursing WTE for Oncology services is 14. This is made up of eight nurses in the Oncology Day Unit included opposite, along with four Clinical Nurse Specialists and two Advanced Nurse Practitioners who do not work on the Day Unit but manage OPD services and inpatient consults.
Sligo University Hospital - Oncology Day Ward - In-patient Oncology Ward	7.8 22.8	<p>The total approved WTE for Day Oncology services is 7.8 nurses delivering SACT to patients. Additional Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANP) and Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) support the overall service. 1 ANP Haematology and 1 CNS oncology providing oral chemotherapy.</p> <p>In the In-patients Oncology Ward 22.8 WTE nurses are dealing with acute oncology admissions, who also administer chemotherapies on the ward.</p>
Letterkenny University Hospital - In-patient Ward - Oncology Day Ward	33 9.6	The total approved Nursing WTE for Oncology/Haematology In-patient services is 33.0 WTE to provide chemotherapy delivery and management of the acutely unwell patients requiring admission. Not all ward staff are engaged in the administration of chemotherapy. These figures do not include Advanced Nurse Practitioners or Clinical Nurse Specialists in the Haematology and Oncology Service. The Oncology Day Ward is staffed separately to deliver the ambulatory chemotherapy and OPD services.

I hope this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Ann Cosgrove,
Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon,
HSE West and North West.