

General Manager's Office
University Hospital Galway
Newcastle Road
Galway
Tel: (091) 544200

12th March, 2025

REF: PQ 10455/25

RE: To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients on University Hospital Galway's waiting list for the pain clinic; the length of time they have been waiting; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -
Mairéad Farrell

Dear Deputy Farrell,

The HSE has been requested to reply to you directly in the context of the request for information referenced above.

In response to your query, we can confirm the following in relation to the Pain Service Waiting Lists. There has been a significant amount of progress made over the past few years in regards to improving patient waiting times for assessment and treatment and to reduce the current backlog. Additional capacity has been progressed both in and outside of Galway University Hospitals via additional lists run in Merlin Park University Hospital at weekends and also outsourcing of patients to the private hospitals where we have secured additional capacity for assessment and treatment.

Over the past 18 months, a considerable amount of validation of the longer waiting patients has been undertaken. The Pain Service Clinical Team have been contacting the longer waiting patients and are contacting each patient to ascertain the most appropriate pathway or advice on the requirement for intervention or their treatment. The Advanced Nurse Practitioner for this service has been critical in helping put all of these mechanisms in place.

As below, there are currently 694 patients waiting for an **Outpatient appointment**.

Current Outpatient Waiting List Figures (End Feb 2025)

Specialty	Pain Relief									
Count of hospital name	Column Labels									
Row Labels	0-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	12-15 Months	15-18 Months	18-21 Months	24-36 Months	36-48 Months	Grand Total
Has Appointment Date	16	1		23	4	1				45
No Appointment Date	179	221	174	17						591
Suspended			2	21	11	2	2	16	4	58
Grand Total	195	222	176	61	15	3	2	16	4	694

***OPD (Suspended = Outsourced to the private sector)**

Currently, there are 1,501 waiting for Inpatient Day Case (IPDC) procedures. This figure increases as more people are reviewed in outpatients, they will be added to the IPDC list for their procedure.

Current IPDC Waiting List (End Feb 2025)

Specialty	Pain Relief								
Count of Hospital Name	Column Labels								
Row Labels	0-3 Mths	3-6 Mths	6-9 Mths	9-12 Mths	12-15 Mths	15-18 Mths	18-24 Mths	24-36 Mths	Grand Total
ACTIVE	267	341	380	238	76	2		1	1305
PREADMIT	14	4		17	20	4			59
SUSPENSION	14			6	101	15	1		137
Grand Total	295	345	380	261	197	21	1	1	1501

*(Active = No appointment, Preadmit = Has a date, Suspension = Outsourced to the private sector)

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Kane
General Manager
Galway University Hospitals