

April 07th, 2025

Johnny Guirke TD

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Reference: PQ 22184/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons attending chemotherapy within the recommended timeframe in each of the relevant hospitals managed by the Ireland East Hospital Group, by month, from July 2024 to date in 2025, in tabular form. -Johnny Guirke

Dear Deputy Guirke

The HSE National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) KPI for chemotherapy administration :
... “ **within 15 working days of the date of the finalised treatment plan**”.

St. Vincent's University Hospital

Based on data from the past 12 months, SVUH consistently meets the KPI with 100% compliance.

The NCCP has a Medical Oncology KPI for SACT access: “For patients receiving a new parenteral systemic therapy in the day ward setting, the timeline 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. As one of the eight designated cancer centres, SVUH works towards this KPI.

SVUH meets this KPI, with no breaches due to capacity since February 2023. There are regularly patients outside of the target due to medical reasons or personal choice. Please see table below for further information.

University Hospital Waterford

Based on data from the past 12 months, UHW's average compliance rate with this KPI is 71.2%.

Current Challenges:

- Limited Capacity in the current Day Ward, which is off-site in UPMC
- Significant Increase in the referral rate to the oncology services
- Changes to duration and frequency of treatment modalities, which have significantly impacted on day ward capacity.
- Limitation in types and amounts of treatments being delivered in other Day Wards around the region directly affects UHW Day Ward (if there is no capacity in other day wards, patients automatically come to UHW).
- Limited resources in the Pharmacy to address the increasing demand regarding chemotherapy compounding.

Efforts to address challenges

- UHW day ward operating hours are 8-8, 5 days a week
- All usage of the capacity in the day ward has been assessed, and non-chemo administration infusions/procedures have been relocated to other clinical areas where appropriate



- Refurbishment project commenced in UHW, which will allow Day Ward to relocate back onsite with some increased capacity and will support workflow efficiencies.
- Business Cases submitted to increase resources in the pharmacy department.

St Luke's Hospital Carlow Kilkenny

St Luke's hospital Carlow Kilkenny has an average compliance rate with this KPI is 71.2%, based on data from the past 12 months. St Luke's has noted an increase in the number referrals, and there are plans in place to relocate the department to support optimising capacity and increasing patient access.

Clinical Governance for the patients is provided by University Hospital Waterford.

Tipperary University Hospital

South Tipperary University Hospital consistently achieves its KPI of 100%, Clinical Governance for the patients is provided by University Hospital Waterford.

Wexford General Hospital

Wexford General Hospital consistently achieves its KPI of 100%, Clinical Governance for the patients is provided by University Hospital Waterford.

I trust the above information has been helpful.

Yours sincerely

Eithne Mullen
Regional Lead for Access
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