



Johnny Guirke TD
Sinn Féin
Leinster House
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15th May 2025

Re.

PQ22185/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons attending chemotherapy within the recommended timeframe in each of the relevant hospitals managed by RCSI Hospital Group, by month, from July 2024 to date in 2025, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Guirke,

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 and the proportion that were treated within 15 working days of being deemed ready to treat is tabulated as follows for the five SACT units that are within the HSE Dublin and North East health region which, other than the Mater, were formerly within the RCSI Hospital Group:

HSE Dublin and North East	Metric	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25
Beaumont	%	92%	100%	100%	97%	96%	100%	93%	94%	98%
	N	79	53	75	74	89	71	81	67	94
Connolly	%	100%	-	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	*	*
	N	<5	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	*	*
OLOL Drogheda	%	75%	67%	74%	100%	83%	89%	74%	80%	84%
	N	24	18	23	22	23	27	27	30	37
Cavan	%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	*
	N	23	12	16	17	7	11	11	13	*
Mater	%	93%	99%	102%	97%	80%	86%	82%	76%	91%
	N	68	72	54	70	45	50	44	38	43

Please note that numbers <5 are suppressed to maintain patient anonymity in accordance with local GDPR policy.

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 2nd or 3rd 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).
- Data for 2025 may not be complete for all submitting hospitals and is subject to change.
- Patients who are outside of target by reason of personal choice who opt to delay or defer treatment are considered as within target in the calculation of the KPI (%).
- Where the patient count is relatively low at <20 the KPI (%) can become sensitive to the small number effect of individual patient reasons such as those outside of target due to medical reasons including post-surgical recovery.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Heckmann
Assistant National Director
National Cancer Control Programme