



Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon

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12th May, 2025.

Deputy Johnny Guirke TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare St.,
Dublin 2.

RE: PQ - 22189/25

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

Dear Deputy Guirke,

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 and the following outlines the position:

SACT (Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy) is any drug treatment used to control or treat cancer. 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. This include haematology-oncology patients.

The number of patients who received their first cycle of intravenous systemic therapy at each hospital site, i.e., Galway University Hospitals (GUH), Portiuncula University Hospital (PUH), Mayo University Hospital (MUH), Sligo University Hospital (SUH) and Letterkenny University Hospital (LUH), is set out in the tables below:

| GUH | Jul 24 | Aug 24 | Sept 24 | Oct 24 | Nov 24 | Dec 24 | Jan 25 | Feb 25 | Mar 25 |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1 st Cycle | 54 | 36 | 41 | 46 | 47 | 25 | 63 | 39 | 39 |
| Within 15 Days | 38 | 26 | 29 | 31 | 35 | 20 | 39 | 32 | 24 |
| Percentage | 70% | 72% | 71% | 67% | 75% | 80% | 62% | 82% | 62% |



| PUH | Jul 24 | Aug 24 | Sept 24 | Oct 24 | Nov 24 | Dec 24 | Jan 25 | Feb 25 | Mar 25 |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1 st Cycle | 19 | 10 | 9 | 11 | 8 | 4 | 9 | | |
| Within 15 Days | 3 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 6 | | |
| Percentage | 16% | 60% | 78% | 82% | 87% | 100% | 67% | | |

| MUH | Jul 24 | Aug 24 | Sept 24 | Oct 24 | Nov 24 | Dec 24 | Jan 25 | Feb 25 | Mar 25 |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1 st Cycle | 28 | 24 | 32 | 31 | 31 | 15 | 25 | 24 | 23 |
| Within 15 Days | 25 | 22 | 32 | 31 | 31 | 15 | 25 | 24 | 22 |
| Percentage | 89% | 92% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 96% |

| SUH | Jul 24 | Aug 24 | Sept 24 | Oct 24 | Nov 24 | Dec 24 | Jan 25 | Feb 25 | Mar 25 |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1 st Cycle | 28 | 22 | 20 | 20 | 24 | 17 | 21 | 16 | 24 |
| Within 15 Days | 23 | 19 | 15 | 16 | 19 | 9 | 16 | 13 | 19 |
| Percentage | 75% | 86% | 75% | 80% | 79% | 53% | 76% | 81% | 79% |

| LUH | Jul 24 | Aug 24 | Sept 24 | Oct 24 | Nov 24 | Dec 24 | Jan 25 | Feb 25 | Mar 25 |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1 st Cycle | 14 | 15 | 11 | 16 | 8 | 13 | 16 | 18 | 19 |
| Within 15 Days | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 12 | 15 |
| Percentage | 7% | 20% | 18% | 0% | 62% | 0% | 31% | 67% | 79% |

SACT activity in all our units are challenged due to increased demand; increase in demand is multifactorial other than the predicted doubling of cancer incidence. The following outlines the plans to reduce these wait times in each of the hospitals:

Medium – Long-term Plan to address capacity deficiency:

The National Cancer Strategy 2017-2026 and the National Development Plan 2021-2030 (NDP) are committed to major capital investment in cancer infrastructure nationally with investment in quality infrastructure within the West and North West called out in the NDP: *‘in accordance with balanced*



regional development, a cancer care network for the West and North West region with a Cancer Centre at Galway University Hospital, with appropriate infrastructure will be delivered.'

The cancer centre infrastructure requirement at GUH is progressing as part of the Model 4 hospital site development.

The HSE West and North West vision for cancer infrastructure in each of the Model 3 hospitals is to develop appropriate Ambulatory Cancer Facilities (ACF) at LUH, MUH, PUH and SUH in line with the NDP.

Short-term Plan:

GUH plan in progress to add an additional 6 chairs, PUH plan to add an additional 2 chairs (Qtr. 2 2025), LUH added 4 additional treatment bays as an extension to the day ward situated on the in-patient floor and SUH have an interim day ward relocation identified that will increase capacity (part of new ward block build).

I hope this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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

c.c. cancer_policy@health.gov.ie