



Cáilíocht Náisiúnta agus Sábháilteacht Othar

Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Cliniciúil

National Quality and Patient Safety

Office of the Chief Clinical Officer

Mr David Cullinane TD
Sinn Féin
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street, Dublin 2
e. david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie

30/10/2025

Re: **PQ ref 52525/25**

To ask the Minister for Health the rate of medication incidents as reported to NIMS by 1,000 beds, by location, as of 30 September, for each year 2023 to 2025, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

I refer to your parliamentary question above which has been referred to HSE National Quality and Patient Safety, Incident Management, for response.

The QPS Incident Management team submit relevant data to the HSE Business Intelligence Unit (BIU) on a monthly basis to inform the HSE National Service Plan 2025 KPI 'Medication Safety - KPI rate of medication incidents as reported to NIMS per 1,000 beds' under the section 'Receiving Care at the Right Time'.

BIU calculate the rate of medication incidents per 1000 bed days. This applies to acute hospitals only as it is calculated based on inpatient bed days. For the purpose of this communication we included statutory services only (hospitals) as per standard PQ requirements.

There are two important considerations for context here. First, incident reporting rate, in particular, of low harm and near miss-incidents, is encouraged. This indicates a positive safety culture and a high reporting rate is generally seen as positive (unless there is a high frequency of serious harm). Secondly, there are data limitations and data quality issues with NIMS data and I refer you to our data quality statement to highlight them, published [here](#).

The following data is based on the KPI 'Rate of medication incidents as reported to NIMS per 1,000 beds.'. We note the target set in the National Service plan for this KPI is ≥ 3 , therefore higher rates are better than the target.



Cáilíocht Náisiúnta agus Sábháilteacht Othar

Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Cliniciúil

National Quality and Patient Safety

Office of the Chief Clinical Officer

Table 1 Rates of Medication incidents as reported to NIMS per 1000 bed days used only in HSE hospitals quarterly detail

Region	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025
HSE Dublin and Midlands	6.59	7.05	6.01	3.91	4.96	4.01	4.76	5.63	5.77	4.42
HSE Dublin and North East	3.94	3.67	4.06	3.70	3.41	3.38	4.18	3.33	3.18	3.55
HSE Dublin and South East	3.01	2.61	3.18	2.57	2.60	2.81	3.92	2.71	3.10	2.68
HSE Mid West	2.84	2.46	2.72	2.75	2.34	2.93	2.18	2.71	3.36	2.98
HSE South West	2.28	1.87	2.50	2.44	2.25	2.39	1.76	1.92	1.60	1.83
HSE West and North West	2.16	1.42	1.17	1.43	2.23	2.01	1.63	2.15	2.33	2.45

Table 2 Rates of Medication incidents as reported to NIMS per 1000 bed days used only in HSE hospitals

Region	2023	2024	Jan-Jun 2025
HSE Dublin and Midlands	5.89	4.85	5.12
HSE Dublin and North East	3.85	3.57	3.36
HSE Dublin and South East	2.84	3.00	2.89
HSE Mid West	2.69	2.54	3.17
HSE South West	2.28	2.08	1.71
HSE West and North West	1.55	2.00	2.39

I trust this clarifies the matter but please do contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

Lorraine Schwanberg
Assistant National Director
Quality and Patient Safety Incident Management, Open Disclosure and NIMS