



Deputy Emer Currie,

Dáil Éireann,

Leinster House,

Dublin 2

22nd October 2025

PQ : 53925/25

To ask the Minister for Health whether data is currently compiled to track the number of patients currently travelling to Northern Ireland for cataract surgery; if that data is published; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Currie,

Thank you for your parliamentary question referenced above in relation to the number of patients currently travelling to Northern Ireland for cataract surgery.

In general, the Northern Ireland Healthcare Scheme (NIPHS) allows public patients to access healthcare in the private healthcare sector of Northern Ireland, where the treatment is one they are entitled to access in Ireland. The patient pays for the treatment up front and claims reimbursement upon return to Ireland. Reimbursement is at the cost of the treatment in Northern Ireland or the cost of the treatment in Ireland whichever is the lesser. Public patient pathways as they apply to accessing the healthcare in Ireland equally apply to accessing the healthcare abroad under the NIPHS.

The National Contact Point (NCP), processes application for reimbursement in respect of healthcare accessed under the NIPHS. Therefore, please note the information set out in the table below is in respect of the number of reimbursements processed and not the number of patients. This is of relevance as one reimbursement could be in respect of both eyes for one patient. Equally one patient could submit two claims for reimbursement in respect of each eye separately.



Cataract procedures have specific Diagnostic Related Group (DRG) codes. Therefore, the information in the table below is set out by DRG code but with a total for all cataracts in the bottom row.

NIPHS 2024 Jan - Dec		NIPHS 2025 Jan-June	
C15Z GLAUCOMA/CMPLX CATARACT INTERV, MINC	1,320	C15Z GLAUCOMA/CMPLX CATARACT INTERV, MINC	18
C16Z LENS INTERVENTIONS	151	C16Z LENS INTERVENTIONS	302
C15B GLAUCOMA/CMPLX CATARACT INTERV, MINC	11	C15B GLAUCOMA/CMPLX CATARACT INTERV, MINC	0
Total	1,482	Total	320

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Donohoe
Head of Function/Service