



Deputy Cian O'Callaghan
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

22nd September 2025

PQ 45170/25 - To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE has recorded deaths in Ireland as a direct result of vaping; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Cian O'Callaghan

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Hospital In-Patient Enquiry (HIPE) is a health information system, managed by the Healthcare Pricing Office (HPO) of HSE Finance and is designed to collect clinical and administrative data on discharges from, and deaths in, acute public hospitals in Ireland. HIPE discharges are clinically coded from charts in the hospitals, this includes translating medical terminology into alpha-numeric code and using the entire chart to extract the conditions and procedures to create an adequate picture of the patient's health care encounter.

Colleagues in HIPE advised they are unable to answer the question as HIPE does not collect cause of death data. HIPE is a morbidity database, recording a principal diagnosis and up to 29 additional diagnoses. The principal diagnosis is the diagnosis that is established after study to be chiefly responsible for occasioning an episode of admitted patient care. While a patient may die during their episode of care, this may not be due to their principal diagnosis and a cause of death cannot be inferred from the HIPE record. HIPE would refer people looking for cause of death statistics to the Vital Statistics Unit in the Central Statistics Office (CSO).

Access and Integration contacted colleagues in HSE Tobacco Free Ireland Programme who provided the below information on work underway in the area of e-cigarette prevention:

The HSE has developed lesson plans for junior cycle SPHE (Making Healthy Choices Units 1 and 2) which includes content on tobacco, e-cigarettes and nicotine products. The HSE collaborated with the National Association of Principals and Deputies in 2024 to host an information webinar on nicotine-containing products and how schools can respond effectively to protect young people from the harms associated with these products.

The SPHE lesson plans and other resources on nicotine-containing products are available at the below link:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/tobaccocontrol/resources/e-cigarette-resources.html>



There is also new content on smokeless nicotine and tobacco products on the HSE website:

<https://www2.hse.ie/living-well/quit-smoking/other-products/smokeless/>

Development for a HSE youth vaping and nicotine pouch prevention campaign is underway. The campaign will aim to engage young people, parents, and guardians. Further information on the campaign will be available in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Nessa Lynch
General Manager
Access & Integration