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Seirbhísí agus Scéimeanna Náisiúnta
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Deputy Ruairí Ó Murchú, T.D.

Dáil Eireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

10th Sept 2025

PQ : 47632/25

1. PQ 47632/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons who availed of the Northern Planned Healthcare Scheme from June 2024 to June 2025; if she will detail the types of treatment received, county by county, in tabular form; the total amount paid to the Planned Healthcare Scheme during this period; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -

Dear Deputy Ó Murchú,

I refer to your parliamentary question referenced above, which was passed to the HSE for response.

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.

I will set out hereunder the information you have requested. Please note the information relates to the number of applications received and not to the number of people. One person may avail of the scheme on more than one occasion for example to access a hip replacement and then to access cataract treatment.



2024 information:

NIPHS Monthly Activity Description for Reimbursement 2024

Activity Description	Applications pending* processing	Applications received	Applications approved*	Applications declined	Applications incomplete	Applications withdrawn	Total applications processed during the month	Applications pending* processing at end of month
January	547	573	453	6	278	1	738	479
February	479	531	411	6	244	1	662	445
March	445	501	411	4	217	0	632	469
April	469	523	374	8	237	0	620	419
May	419	491	374	18	249	0	641	360
June	360	462	353	16	218	0	587	352
July	352	571	409	15	227	3	654	292
August	292	603	382	14	246	3	645	374
September	374	564	342	3	209	1	555	438
October	438	533	428	8	228	1	665	376
November	376	495	348	4	189	0	541	404
December	404	371	276	4	200	0	480	339

*These figures reflect activity at each month end and can be subject to change where cases advance. As per table 18, as at 31st December 2024 the total number of reimbursements approved for 2024 is 4,560. The monthly data and overall year end data do not correlate as both figures reflect accurate data at a point in time.

Activity in a given month will not correlate between our opening balance of pending applications and a closing balance of pending applications awaiting processing when considering the level of activity of a given month. The reason for this is that often applications which have previously had decisions issued are reopened for further consideration and processing.



NIPHS Reimbursement by County 2024

County	Number of Reimbursements Q1	Number of Reimbursements Q2	Number of Reimbursements Q3	Number of Reimbursements Q4	2024 Total
Carlow	9	19	7	15	50
Cavan	45	49	36	29	159
Clare	9	8	10	5	32
Cork	168	128	142	170	608
Donegal	377	309	332	329	1,347
Dublin	121	108	126	102	457
Galway	56	45	29	23	153
Kerry	48	42	50	43	183
Kildare	28	30	28	34	120
Kilkenny	15	13	12	6	46
Laois	17	12	11	4	44
Leitrim	15	17	19	11	62
Limerick	11	9	6	2	28
Longford	20	15	15	9	59
Louth	52	37	40	33	162
Mayo	23	19	23	23	88
Meath	47	35	41	45	168
Monaghan	77	72	73	58	280
Offaly	8	13	7	11	39
Roscommon	18	16	11	14	59
Sligo	8	14	9	6	37
Tipperary	19	30	15	16	80
Waterford	17	11	15	13	56
Westmeath	22	9	18	14	63
Wexford	35	28	34	28	125
Wicklow	10	14	24	7	55
Grand Total	1,275	1,102	1,133	1,050	4,560

Approved Applications for Reimbursement under the NIPHS by Specialty and Episode of Care 2024

[illegible]



Urology	28	31	21	21	101	15	10	7	12	44	1	1	1	1	4	149
Vascular	41	23	10	22	96	32	16	9	15	72	0	0	0	0	0	168
Grand Total	1,508	1,218	1,318	1,203	5,247	559	512	527	494	2,092	283	213	193	188	877	8,216

2025 information:

Activity Description	Applications pending* processing	Applications received	Applications approved*	Applications declined	Applications incomplete	Applications withdrawn	Total applications processed during the month	Applications pending* processing at end of month
January	339	493	297	10	224	1	532	245
February	245	460	345	7	218	0	570	281
March	281	469	280	6	205	1	492	320
April	320	430	254	7	230	0	491	303
May	303	483	298	10	235	0	543	378
June	378	422	228	4	196	0	428	467
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								

NIPHS Monthly Activity Description for Reimbursement 2025

*These figures reflect activity at each month end and can be subject to change where cases advance. The monthly data and overall year-end data do not correlate as both figures reflect accurate data at a point in time.

Activity in a given month will not correlate between our opening balance of pending applications and a closing balance of pending applications awaiting processing when considering the level of activity of a given month. The reason for this is that often applications, which have previously had decisions issued, are reopened for further consideration and processing.



NIPHS Reimbursement by County 2025

County	Number of Reimbursements Q1	Number of Reimbursements Q2	Number of Reimbursements Q3	Number of Reimbursements Q4	2025 Total
Carlow	10	10			20
Cavan	39	22			61
Clare	3	12			15
Cork	82	73			155
Donegal	346	280			626
Dublin	76	87			163
Galway	19	21			40
Kerry	17	10			27
Kildare	24	18			42
Kilkenny	10	5			15
Laois	5	10			15
Leitrim	17	10			27
Limerick	7	7			14
Longford	10	5			15
Louth	45	34			79
Mayo	12	13			25
Meath	30	25			55
Monaghan	51	42			93
Offaly	8	8			16
Roscommon	15	10			25
Sligo	9	6			15
Tipperary	16	13			29
Waterford	8	10			18
Westmeath	14	11			25
Wexford	32	31			63
Wicklow	17	7			24
Grand Total	922	780			1,702



Approved Applications for Reimbursement under the NIPHS by Specialty and Episode of Care 2025

Medical Specialty	Outpatient					Day Case					Inpatient					2025 Total
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	
Audiology	0	1			1	0	0			0	0	0			0	1
Cardiology	11	14			25	0	0			0	0	0			0	25
Colorectal	3	1			4	4	0			4	0	1			1	9
Dental	8	3			11	2	1			3	0	0			0	14
Dermatology	36	22			58	4	2			6	0	0			0	64
Endocrinology	7	1			8	1	0			1	0	0			0	9
ENT	114	83			197	19	17			36	12	15			27	260
Gastroenterology	14	11			25	7	4			11	0	1			1	37
General Surgery	25	30			55	11	11			22	5	5			10	87
Gynaecology	44	58			102	4	2			6	5	6			11	119
Neurology	56	54			110	11	12			23	8	12			20	153
Obstetrics	0	4			4	0	0			0	0	0			0	4
Ophthalmology	156	133			289	175	151			326	0	0			0	615
Oral & Maxillo Facial	5	9			14	3	4			7	0	0			0	21
Orthodontics	167	150			317	0	0			0	0	0			0	317
Orthopaedics	347	313			660	39	34			73	173	136			309	1,042
Paediatrics	8	7			15	1	2			3	0	0			0	18
Pain Management	2	5			7	0	3			3	0	0			0	10
Physiotherapy	3	10			13	0	0			0	0	0			0	13
Plastic Surgery	17	7			24	4	2			6	10	3			13	43
Podiatric	10	5			15	5	2			7	0	0			0	22
Psychiatry	2	0			2	0	0			0	0	0			0	2
Psychology	0	1			1	0	0			0	0	0			0	1
Radiology	0	1			1	0	0			0	0	0			0	1
Respiratory	5	3			8	0	0			0	0	0			0	8



Rheumatology	8	9			17	0	0			0	0	0			0	17
Urology	17	16			33	4	8			12	0	0			0	45
Vascular	20	19			39	13	16			29	0	0			0	68
Grand Total	1,085	970			2,055	307	271			578	213	179			392	3,025

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Donohoe
Head of Function/Service