



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta
um Rochtain agus Imeascadh

Ospideal an Dr. Steevens
Baile Atha Cliath, D08 W2A8

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Deputy Cormac Devlin
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

30th September 2025

PQ 49344/25 - To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE will provide, for each of the past three years, the number of hospital outpatient and day-case attendances where alopecia areata (ICD-10 L63) was recorded as a primary or secondary diagnosis, by hospital group and by hospital; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Cormac Devlin

Dear Deputy Devlin,

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.

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.

The included Excel file is provided by HIPE and relates to day cases. Please note the data for outpatient appointments is not held centrally.
Please see the data notes on the file.

Please note that figures between 1 and 5 are suppressed along with additional figures that could be used to extrapolate figures between 1 and 5, for patient confidentiality reasons as per HSE policy. These figures are replaced with ~ or *.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Nessa Lynch
General Manager
Access & Integration

Filename: H250204_PQ_49344_25_HIPE_Information.xlsx
Source: HIPE, Healthcare Pricing Office
Data Used: HIPE_2022_ASOF_0323_V16_CLOSE, HIPE_2023_ASOF_0324_V13_CLOSE, HIPE_2024_ASOF_0325_V15_CLOSE
Date: September 2025

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Notes:
Daycase and in-patient discharges are reported only. HIPE does not collect activity on outpatients, emergency department attendances, psychiatric units or long term stay units.
HIPE data is based on hospitalisations which may include multiple admissions for the same patient. Therefore, it is not possible to use HIPE to examine certain parameters such as the number of hospital encounters per patient, or to estimate incidence or prevalence of disease.
For every discharge HIPE captures a principal diagnosis and up to 29 additional diagnoses, and up to 20 procedures, in addition to administrative and demographic information.
Diagnoses and Procedures are coded using ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS (from 2020 to 2023 the 10th edition is used, from 2024 onwards the 12th edition is used). This change in the coding classification needs to be considered when looking at the data across years.
Please note that the data provided does not include any public activity performed in private hospitals under the private hospital agreements.

Definitions:
Any Diagnosis is composed of the principal diagnosis and additional diagnoses reported. From 2011 HIPE collects a principal diagnosis and up to 29 additional diagnoses per discharge.
Principal Diagnosis is the diagnosis established after study to be chiefly responsible for occasioning an episode of admitted patient care, an episode of residential care, or an attendance at the health care establishment, as represented by a code.
Additional Diagnoses refer to conditions or complaints either coexisting with the principal diagnosis or arising during the episode of admitted patient care, episode of residential care or attendance at a health care establishment, as represented by a code.

Table 1: Number of daycases reported to HIPE from acute public hospitals with any diagnosis L63 (Alopecia areata), by HSE health region, 2022-2024.

Health Region	Y2022	Y2023	Y2024
HSE Dublin & Midlands	6	~	~
HSE Dublin & North East	~	9	*
HSE Dublin & South East	17	6	19
HSE Mid West	0	~	0
HSE South West	26	25	29
HSE West & North West	~	0	9
Total	52	47	68

~ for figures between 1 and 5, inclusively; * for further suppression.

Table 2: Number of daycases reported to HIPE from selected acute public hospitals^ with any diagnosis L63 (Alopecia areata), 2022-2024.

Health Region	Hospital	Y2022	Y2023	Y2024
HSE Dublin & North East	Mater	~	7	~
HSE Dublin & South East	St Vincents	17	6	19
HSE South West	South Inf-Victoria	26	24	29
HSE West & North West	UCHG	~	0	9

~ for figures between 1 and 5, inclusively.

^ Only hospitals with more than five relevant discharges in one of the three years are included in this table.