



17 October 2025

Deputy Emer Currie, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 52124/25

To ask the Minister for Health if she will consider establishing a National Ophthalmology Audit, similar to those in orthopaedics, ICU, and dementia care, given that cataract surgery is the most common elective procedure in Ireland (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Details: yet there is currently no national audit of outcomes or complications in this area

Dear Deputy Currie,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme (NCP) for Ophthalmology and Quality and Patient Safety (QPS) on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Clinical audit is a quality improvement process that seeks to improve patient care and outcomes through the systematic review of care against explicit criteria. The value of clinical audit is well established in healthcare and is supported by the Patient Safety Act (Notifiable Incident and Open Disclosure) 2023.

In Ireland, there is a robust governance structure in place for National Clinical Audits. National Quality and Patient Safety and the National Centre for Clinical Audit (NCCA) commission National Clinical Audits on behalf of the HSE. Criteria are applied in the selection of National Clinical Audits such as the population health impact, patient safety issues.

The National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology will give due consideration to the requirements, evaluate the feasibility of potential approaches and determine priority areas for further exploration and implementation of such an audit.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Anne Horgan
General Manager