



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroibriochtaí

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Deputy Colm Burke
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

20th February 2024

PQ 54362/23 – To ask the Minister for Health the percentage of private patients in beds in public hospitals as a total percentage of all patients in public hospitals for the 12 months ending October 2021, October 2022 and October 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Colm Burke

PQ 54363/23 – To ask the Minister for Health the percentage of public patients being cared for in private hospitals as a percentage of the total number of beds available for the 12 months ending October 2021, October 2022 and October 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Colm Burke

Dear Deputy Burke,

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

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 HIPE system is not an operational database, it is not updated nationally at the HPO on a real-time or daily basis and is also not considered final until it is closed in the following year.

Currently the data for 2023 is not fully coded, and therefore has not been provided.

Please see the included Excel file: Total number of discharges from acute hospitals reported to HIPE, by status on discharge and time period.

Please note: In HIPE, public/private status relates to whether the patient saw the consultant on a private or public basis. It does not relate to the type of bed occupied nor is it an indicator of possession of private health insurance.

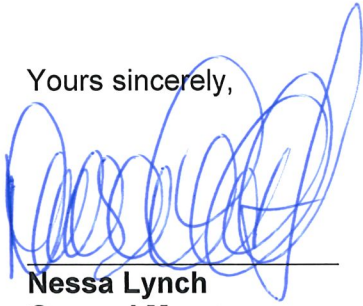
In relation to public patients being treated in private hospital, I wish to advise that public patients are supported with access to private hospitals for both inpatient, daycase and outpatient care.

It is not possible to quantify the totality of public patients in private beds arising from all these arrangements.

It should also be noted that the HSE accessed in the order of 160 private hospital beds in 2023 to support Urgent and Emergency Care (UEC).

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Nessa Lynch
General Manager
Acute Operations