



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géarobriochtai

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An Bóthar Mileata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile
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Deputy Brendan Griffin
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

19th December 2023

PQ 55706/23 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of deaths recorded each year from 2018 to 2023 to date, in tabular form due to cocaine use/abuse/overdose; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Brendan Griffin

Dear Deputy Griffin,

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.

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.

HIPE colleagues have advised they do not have the information requested; HIPE does not record the cause of death of a patient.

HIPE record the number of discharges with death discharge code and a cocaine related diagnosis code, but that does not mean the patient's death is caused by the cocaine related condition.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Nessa Lynch
General Manager
Acute Operations