



Príomhoifigeach Faisnéise

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25th June 2024

Mr Denis Naughton TD
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 18849/24

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of people in Ireland who currently use telecare systems either in their home, in nursing or care homes and/or in assisted-living facilities to monitor, support or protect the health and well-being of vulnerable people; the annual spend on such devices for each of the past five years from 2019 to 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Naughten,

Telehealth definition:

Telehealth is the "delivery of health care services, where patients and providers are separated by distance. Telehealth uses ICT for the exchange of information for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and injuries, research and evaluation, and for the continuing education of health professionals" (WHO 2020)

Telecare definition:

Telecare uses simple technology to support a person's wellbeing and helps them to live safely and independently. It can offer reassurance and peace of mind to people, their relatives and staff, while still maintaining privacy. It can be used in a variety of settings such as the person's own home, care home, hospital or even out and about in the community.

Examples of devices include personal alarms, pressure alarms, movement sensors and fall detectors.

Telecare figures are in their infancy. There are a small number of pilots in use however national figures are currently not available.



For the purpose of responding to this PQ:

- we are interpreting telecare systems as Telehealth.
- below includes a collation of various strands of information for a composite picture of what telehealth looks like.
- information provided is not a full figure in relation to the overall population usage of telehealth. There are multiple local telehealth pilots in operation across the country, national figures are not available for these initiatives.

3 elements of telehealth:

- **Remote Health Monitoring**
- **Online Support and Therapies**
- **Remote Health Consultations (Video & telephone)**

Remote Health monitoring	Dates	Numbers	Cost
PatientMPower - medical device' enabled virtual care at home - Chronic Disease longer term follow-up, shorter term, Early Discharge / Admission Avoidance	2019 - 2023	13,081 users from 2019-2023	N/A
MyPatientSpace - bespoke digital health solutions. You can launch a program for personalised patient centric care. Remote Patient feeds (from devices, PROMS, assessments): over 20 million Over 400 downloads per month	2019 – 2024	- 3,700 users every day - 5,800 users every week - 6,700 users Monthly (Includes all patients HSE, Sec 38 & private)	EUR 775,000 (Approx spend for all public, not just HSE funded)

N/A – Not available

Online Supports & Therapies	Dates	Numbers	Cost
Togetherall -digital peer to peer support provides students with 24/7 anonymous access to clinically moderated support and resources	08/2022 – 04/2024	3,261 users from 08/22- 04/24	N/A
SpunOut (Text conversations) <i>**active rescue is the provision of support directly to a texter who has indicated that they are actively at risk of harming themselves or another</i>	01/2023 – 04/2024	- 60,333 text conversations from 01/2023- 04/2024. - 598 **active rescues from 1/2023 to 12/2023.	N/A



Jigsaw - primary care mental health services (User sessions online) Therapeutic support through emails and chat sessions	01/2023 – 03/2024	-220 users 01/2023-12/2023 - 679,000 user sessions 01/2023 – 03/2024	N/A
Slivercloud - HSE Online Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Digital CBT for anxiety and depression - providing a primary care level mental health service to young people aged 12 to 25 years. *Cost figure is for 2022	04/2021 – 05/2024	19,572 people completed guided online programmes	*EUR 1,436,665
Samaritans (calls & emails) funding from HSE NOSP 2021	1 year	400,000 calls & emails	EUR 580,000
Salaso -digital therapy & patient management	2021-2023	1,242 users for RCSI Hospital Group. National Figure unavailable	EUR 98,558.04

N/A – Not available

Remote Health Consultations	Dates	Numbers	Cost
Video (attendanywhere and Blueeye) 7,200 Service provider users for attendanywhere	04/2020 – 06/2024	338,029 calls	EUR 3,521,889
Acute Care - Video & Telephone	2020 – 2023	2,235,923 calls	N/A

N/A – Not available

Yours sincerely,

Fran Thompson,
Chief Information Officer, eHealth, HSE.