

CANCER SURVIVAL IMPROVING

Cancer survival is improving in Ireland for all of the major cancers.

Currently we have approximately 120,000 survivors, 3.3% of the population.

About one third of people will have some form of cancer at some time in their lives.

Our overall relative survival from cancer increased when comparing the periods 1995-97 to 1998-2000.

For women, there were increases in survival in the four commonest cancers, breast, lung, colorectal and lymphoma. For men, survival improved for almost all cancers.

Cancer treatments up 70%

Since 1997, about €1 billion has been invested in cancer services.

Nearly 94,000 cancer patients (in-patient and day) were discharged from hospital in 2005, an increase of nearly 40,000. That's up 70% since 1997.

We have created 110 new consultant posts in cancer and over 300 new cancer specialist posts.

We are building up cancer services in a new Cancer Control Strategy 2006 that has been welcomed by all.

Breastcheck cancer screening is being rolled out nationally this year. Mary Harney has instructed officials to prepare a cervical screening programme to start later this year. There was no screening programme at all a few years ago.

Mary Harney brought to Government a new Cancer Control Strategy in 2006. This is an integrated plan to deliver quality assured care for the whole population on an equal basis, to improve cancer survival, and of course, to tackle risk factors for cancer.

The Government has approved a national radiotherapy network plan. As first steps, two new linear accelerators have now been approved for St. Luke's in Dublin and should be in place later this year. New developments are also approved for St. James' and Beaumont Hospital.



"Cancer will affect a lot of people, but the good news is that we are improving care and survival rates.

"The evidence is that patients have better outcomes when treated by teams of doctors in major centres.

"I support networking these centres with smaller hospitals."
Mary Harney

For the Future: "Cancer patients in all parts of the country will receive the same quality standard of care. Guaranteed frequency of screening calls for breast, cervical and colorectal cancer." Progressive Democrats manifesto

let's finish the job