

# PATIENT QUESTIONNAIRE



Help us make hospital care better!

## What is the survey about?

The National Inpatient Experience Survey is a nationwide survey asking patients about their recent stay in a public hospital. The results of the survey will be used to improve hospital care.

Please use this survey to provide general feedback about your hospital experience. If you would like to make a comment or complaint and receive a response, please email the HSE at [yoursay@hse.ie](mailto:yoursay@hse.ie) or phone 1890 424 555. You can also contact the Patient Advocacy Service, which supports people who wish to make a complaint, at 0818 293 003 or [info@patientadvocacyservice.ie](mailto:info@patientadvocacyservice.ie)

## Why did I get this questionnaire?

You got this questionnaire because you spent 24 hours or more in hospital, you are 16 years of age or over and you were discharged from hospital in the survey month.

## Can I do the questionnaire online?

Yes, please go to [survey.yourexperience.ie](http://survey.yourexperience.ie) to complete the survey online.

## Can I ask someone to help me fill in the survey?

Yes, you can ask someone to help you fill in the survey. You may also ask someone to fill in the survey on your behalf. However, please make sure that the answers given reflect your experience of care.

## Completing the questionnaire

- For each question please clearly tick  one box using a black or a blue pen.
- Please read the information in the boxes that accompany some of the questions as these provide important information to help you complete the questionnaire.
- Do not worry if you make a mistake; simply fill in the box  and put a tick  in the correct box.
- **There is space at the end of the questionnaire for your written comments.**
- **Please do not write your name or address anywhere on the questionnaire.**
- **Please return this questionnaire in the Freepost envelope provided. No stamp is needed.**

Thank you for completing the survey. If you have any questions about the survey, please call our Freephone number on 1800 314 093 (Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm), visit [www.yourexperience.ie](http://www.yourexperience.ie) or email us at [info@yourexperience.ie](mailto:info@yourexperience.ie).

To opt out of this survey, call the Freephone number on 1800 314 093 or go to our website [www.yourexperience.ie](http://www.yourexperience.ie).

**Your answers will remain anonymous and confidential.**  
**Your feedback will not affect your future care in any way.**

Survey Code:

We're committed to excellence in healthcare



An Roinn Sláinte  
Department of Health

When answering the questions, please think of your **most recent stay** in the hospital named in the letter that was included with this survey.

## Admission to hospital

**Q1. Was your most recent hospital stay planned in advance or an emergency?**

- Emergency or urgent → GO TO Q2.
- Planned in advance or waiting list → GO TO Q9.
- Something else → GO TO Q2.

**Q2. When you arrived at the hospital, did you go to the emergency department (also known as the A&E department or casualty)?**

- Yes → GO TO Q3.
- No → GO TO Q9.

## The Emergency Department

Please only answer the questions about the emergency department if you answered 'Yes' to Q2.

**Q3. When you had important questions to ask doctors and nurses in the emergency department, did you get answers that you could understand?**

- Yes, always
- Yes, sometimes
- No
- I had no need to ask/I was too unwell to ask any questions

**Q4. While you were in the emergency department, did a doctor or nurse explain your condition and treatment in a way you could understand?**

- Yes, completely
- Yes, to some extent
- No
- I did not need an explanation

**Q5. Were you given enough privacy when being examined or treated in the emergency department?**

- Yes, definitely
- Yes, to some extent
- No
- Don't know/can't remember

**Q6. Overall, did you feel you were treated with respect and dignity while you were in the emergency department?**

- Yes, always
- Yes, sometimes
- No

**Q7. Did you remain in the emergency department for the entire time of your stay?**

- Yes, I was discharged from the emergency department → GO TO Q60.\*
- No, I was transferred to a different part of the hospital before I was discharged → GO TO Q8.

\*If you were **discharged from the emergency department**, please go to page 9 and complete Q60 — Q64, and provide any comments you may have on page 11.

A **ward** is a room or area in the hospital where patients receive care **following admission**.

This is where you received your care **after you were moved from the emergency department**.

**Q8. Following arrival at the hospital, how long did you wait before being admitted to a ward?**

- <sup>1</sup> Less than 6 hours → **GO TO Q9.**
- <sup>2</sup> Between 6 and up to 12 hours → **GO TO Q9.**
- <sup>3</sup> Between 12 and up to 24 hours → **GO TO Q9.**
- <sup>4</sup> Between 24 and up to 48 hours → **GO TO Q9.**
- <sup>5</sup> More than 48 hours → **GO TO Q9.**
- <sup>6</sup> Don't know/can't remember → **GO TO Q9.**
- <sup>7</sup> I was not admitted to a ward → **GO TO Q60.**

## The hospital and ward

A **ward** is a room or area in the hospital where patients receive care **following admission**.

If you stayed in more than one ward, please answer the following questions about the ward in which you spent **most** of your time.

**Q9. Were you given enough privacy while you were on the ward?**

- <sup>1</sup> Yes, always
- <sup>2</sup> Yes, sometimes
- <sup>3</sup> No

**Q10. In your opinion, how clean was the hospital room or ward that you were in?**

- <sup>1</sup> Very clean
- <sup>2</sup> Fairly clean
- <sup>3</sup> Not very clean
- <sup>4</sup> Not at all clean

**Q11. How clean were the toilets and bathrooms that you used in hospital?**

- <sup>1</sup> Very clean
- <sup>2</sup> Fairly clean
- <sup>3</sup> Not very clean
- <sup>4</sup> Not at all clean
- <sup>5</sup> I did not use a toilet or bathroom

**Q12. When you needed help from staff getting to the bathroom or toilet, did you get it in time?**

- <sup>1</sup> Yes, always
- <sup>2</sup> Yes, sometimes
- <sup>3</sup> No
- <sup>4</sup> I did not need help

**Q13. Did staff wear name badges?**

- <sup>1</sup> Yes, all of the staff wore name badges
- <sup>2</sup> Some of the staff wore name badges
- <sup>3</sup> Very few or none of the staff wore name badges
- <sup>4</sup> Don't know/can't remember

**Q14. Did the staff treating and examining you introduce themselves?**

- <sup>1</sup> Yes, all of the staff introduced themselves
- <sup>2</sup> Some of the staff introduced themselves
- <sup>3</sup> Very few or none of the staff introduced themselves
- <sup>4</sup> Don't know/can't remember

## Hospital food

**Q15. How would you rate the hospital food?**

- Very good → GO TO Q16.
- Good → GO TO Q16.
- Fair → GO TO Q16.
- Poor → GO TO Q16.
- I did not have any hospital food → GO TO Q20.

**Q16. Were you offered a choice of food?**

- Yes, always
- Yes, sometimes
- No

**Q17. Were you ever unable to eat during mealtimes (e.g. because you were away from the ward, recovering from surgery, etc.)?**

- Yes → GO TO Q18.
- No → GO TO Q19.
- Don't know/can't remember → GO TO Q19.

**Q18. Were you offered a replacement meal at another time?**

- Yes, always
- Yes, sometimes
- No
- I did not want a meal
- I was not allowed a meal (e.g. because I was fasting)
- Don't know/can't remember

**Q19. Did you get enough help from staff to eat your meals?**

- Yes, always
- Yes, sometimes
- No
- I did not need help to eat meals

## Your care and treatment

**Q20. When you had important questions to ask a doctor, did you get answers that you could understand?**

- Yes, always
- Yes, sometimes
- No
- I had no need to ask

**Q21. Did you feel you had enough time to discuss your care and treatment with a doctor?**

- Yes, definitely
- Yes, to some extent
- No

**Q22. When you had important questions to ask a nurse, did you get answers that you could understand?**

- Yes, always
- Yes, sometimes
- No
- I had no need to ask

**Q23. If you ever needed to talk to a nurse, did you get the opportunity to do so?**

- Yes, always
- Yes, sometimes
- No
- I had no need to talk to a nurse

**Q24. Were you involved as much as you wanted to be in decisions about your care and treatment?**

- Yes, definitely
- Yes, to some extent
- No

**Q25. How much information about your condition or treatment was given to you?**

- <sup>1</sup> Not enough
- <sup>2</sup> The right amount
- <sup>3</sup> Too much

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**Q26. Was your diagnosis explained to you in a way that you could understand?**

- <sup>1</sup> Yes, completely
- <sup>2</sup> Yes, to some extent
- <sup>3</sup> No

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**Q27. If your family or someone else close to you wanted to talk to a doctor, did they have enough opportunity to do so?**

- <sup>1</sup> Yes, definitely
- <sup>2</sup> Yes, to some extent
- <sup>3</sup> No
- <sup>4</sup> No family or friends were involved
- <sup>5</sup> My family did not want or need information
- <sup>6</sup> I did not want my family or friends to talk to a doctor

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**Q28. Did you find someone on the hospital staff to talk to about your worries and fears?**

- <sup>1</sup> Yes, definitely
- <sup>2</sup> Yes, to some extent
- <sup>3</sup> No
- <sup>4</sup> I had no worries or fears

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**Q29. Did you have confidence and trust in the hospital staff treating you?**

- <sup>1</sup> Yes, always
- <sup>2</sup> Yes, sometimes
- <sup>3</sup> No

**Q30. Were you given enough privacy when discussing your condition or treatment?**

- <sup>1</sup> Yes, always
- <sup>2</sup> Yes, sometimes
- <sup>3</sup> No

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**Q31. Were you given enough privacy when being examined or treated?**

- <sup>1</sup> Yes, always
- <sup>2</sup> Yes, sometimes
- <sup>3</sup> No

## Pain

**Q32. Do you think the hospital staff did everything they could to help control your pain?**

- <sup>1</sup> Yes, definitely
- <sup>2</sup> Yes, to some extent
- <sup>3</sup> No
- <sup>4</sup> I was never in any pain

## Tests

**Tests** are used to assess your needs or identify your condition. Examples of tests include: ECG, X-ray, CT scan, MRI scan, ultrasound, etc.

**Q33. Did a doctor or nurse explain the results of the tests in a way that you could understand?**

- <sup>1</sup> Yes, definitely
- <sup>2</sup> Yes, to some extent
- <sup>3</sup> No
- <sup>4</sup> Not sure/can't remember
- <sup>5</sup> I was told I would get the results at a later date
- <sup>6</sup> I was never told the results of tests
- <sup>7</sup> I did not have any tests

## Treatments

**Treatments** help your recovery. Examples of treatments include: injection, dressing, physiotherapy, etc.

**Q34. Before you received any treatments did a member of staff explain what would happen?**

- <sub>1</sub> Yes, always → GO TO Q35.
- <sub>2</sub> Yes, sometimes → GO TO Q35.
- <sub>3</sub> No → GO TO Q35.
- <sub>4</sub> I did not want an explanation → GO TO Q35.
- <sub>5</sub> I did not have any treatments → GO TO Q36.

**Q35. Before you received any treatments did a member of staff explain any risks and or benefits in a way you could understand?**

- <sub>1</sub> Yes, always
- <sub>2</sub> Yes, sometimes
- <sub>3</sub> No
- <sub>4</sub> I did not want an explanation

## Operations and procedures

Examples of **operations** and **procedures** include: bypass surgery, surgery to repair a broken bone, removing an appendix, a colonoscopy, a lumbar puncture/spinal tap, etc.

**Q36. Beforehand, did a member of staff explain the risks and benefits of the operation or procedure in a way you could understand?**

- <sub>1</sub> Yes, completely → GO TO Q37.
- <sub>2</sub> Yes, to some extent → GO TO Q37.
- <sub>3</sub> No → GO TO Q37.
- <sub>4</sub> I did not want an explanation → GO TO Q37.
- <sub>5</sub> I did not have an operation or procedure → GO TO Q40.

**Q37. Beforehand, did a member of staff answer your questions about the operation or procedure in a way you could understand?**

- <sub>1</sub> Yes, completely
- <sub>2</sub> Yes, to some extent
- <sub>3</sub> No
- <sub>4</sub> I did not have any questions

**Q38. Beforehand, were you told how you could expect to feel after you had the operation or procedure?**

- <sub>1</sub> Yes, completely
- <sub>2</sub> Yes, to some extent
- <sub>3</sub> No

**Q39. After the operation or procedure, did a member of staff explain how the operation or procedure had gone in a way you could understand?**

- <sub>1</sub> Yes, completely
- <sub>2</sub> Yes, to some extent
- <sub>3</sub> No

## Leaving hospital

**Q40. Did you feel you were involved in decisions about your discharge from hospital?**

- <sup>1</sup> Yes, definitely
- <sup>2</sup> Yes, to some extent
- <sup>3</sup> No
- <sup>4</sup> I did not want to be involved

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**Q41. Were you or someone close to you given enough notice about your discharge?**

- <sup>1</sup> Yes, definitely
- <sup>2</sup> Yes, to some extent
- <sup>3</sup> No
- <sup>4</sup> Don't know/can't remember

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**Q42. Before you left hospital, did the healthcare staff spend enough time explaining about your health and care after you arrive home?**

- <sup>1</sup> Yes
- <sup>2</sup> No

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**Q43. Before you left hospital, were you given any written or printed information about what you should or should not do after leaving hospital?**

- <sup>1</sup> Yes
- <sup>2</sup> No
- <sup>3</sup> I did not want or need any written or printed information

**Q44. Did a member of staff explain the purpose of the medicines you were to take at home in a way you could understand?**

- <sup>1</sup> Yes, completely → GO TO Q45.
- <sup>2</sup> Yes, to some extent → GO TO Q45.
- <sup>3</sup> No → GO TO Q45.
- <sup>4</sup> I did not need an explanation → GO TO Q45.
- <sup>5</sup> I had no medicines → GO TO Q46.

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**Q45. Did a member of staff tell you about medication side effects to watch for when you went home?**

- <sup>1</sup> Yes, completely
- <sup>2</sup> Yes, to some extent
- <sup>3</sup> No
- <sup>4</sup> I did not need an explanation

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**Q46. Did a member of staff tell you about any danger signals you should watch for after you went home?**

- <sup>1</sup> Yes, completely
- <sup>2</sup> Yes, to some extent
- <sup>3</sup> No
- <sup>4</sup> It was not necessary

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**Q47. Did hospital staff take your family or home situation into account when planning your discharge?**

- <sup>1</sup> Yes, completely
- <sup>2</sup> Yes, to some extent
- <sup>3</sup> No
- <sup>4</sup> It was not necessary
- <sup>5</sup> Don't know/can't remember

**Q48. Did the doctors or nurses give your family or someone close to you all the information they needed to help care for you?**

- Yes, definitely
- Yes, to some extent
- No
- No family or friends were involved
- My family or friends did not want or need information

**Q49. Did hospital staff tell you who to contact if you were worried about your condition or treatment after you left hospital?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know/can't remember

**Q50. Do you feel that you received enough information from the hospital on how to manage your condition after your discharge?**

- Yes, definitely
- Yes, to some extent
- No
- I did not need any help in managing my condition

## Care during the pandemic

As a result of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic there have been some changes in Irish hospitals. The questions in this section ask about the care you received in hospital during the pandemic.

**Q51. Were you told you had COVID-19 at any time during your stay?**

- Yes → GO TO Q53.
- No → GO TO Q52.
- Don't know/can't remember → GO TO Q52.

**Q52. While you were in hospital, did you feel you were at risk of catching COVID-19?**

- Yes, definitely
- Yes, to some extent
- No
- I did not feel at risk as I had been vaccinated
- Not applicable, I already had COVID-19 when I was admitted
- Don't know/can't remember

**Q53. Were you able to understand staff when they were talking to you wearing face masks and visors?**

- Yes, always
- Yes, sometimes
- No
- Staff did not wear face masks or visors

**Q54. When you had questions about COVID-19, did you get answers that you could understand?**

- Yes, always
- Yes, sometimes
- No
- I had no need to ask/I was too unwell to ask any questions

**Q55. Did staff help you keep in touch with your family or someone else close to you during your stay in hospital?**

- Yes, always
- Yes, sometimes
- No
- I did not need any help
- It was not possible to keep in touch



**Q56. If you had worries or fears about COVID-19 while you were in hospital, did you find someone on the hospital staff to talk to?**

- <sup>1</sup> Yes, definitely
- <sup>2</sup> Yes, to some extent
- <sup>3</sup> No
- <sup>4</sup> I had no worries or fears

## Overall

**Q57. Overall, did you feel you were treated with respect and dignity while you were in the hospital?**

- <sup>1</sup> Yes, always
- <sup>2</sup> Yes, sometimes
- <sup>3</sup> No

**Q58. Overall... (please circle a number)**

I had a very **poor** experience

I had a very **good** experience

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**Q59. Thinking about your overall care, if you wanted to give feedback or make a complaint, did you know how and where to do so?**

- <sup>1</sup> Yes
- <sup>2</sup> No
- <sup>3</sup> I did not wish to give feedback or make a complaint

## About you

**Q60. Who was the main person or people who filled in this questionnaire?**

- <sup>1</sup> The patient (named on the front of the envelope)
- <sup>2</sup> The patient with the help of someone else
- <sup>3</sup> A person acting on the patient's behalf

**Please keep in mind** that all questions should be answered from the point of view of the person named on the envelope.

This includes the following questions.

**Q61. What was the main reason for your most recent stay in hospital? (Tick **ONE** box only)**

- <sup>1</sup> COVID-19
- <sup>2</sup> Infection (other than COVID-19)
- <sup>3</sup> Tumour/cancer
- <sup>4</sup> Heart condition
- <sup>5</sup> Lung condition
- <sup>6</sup> Neurological condition (including stroke)
- <sup>7</sup> Orthopaedic condition (e.g. bone or joint issues)
- <sup>8</sup> Digestive system condition (including gallbladder and appendix issues)
- <sup>9</sup> Diabetes and related problems
- <sup>10</sup> Adverse reaction/poisoning
- <sup>11</sup> Injury and or accident
- <sup>12</sup> Mental health issue
- <sup>13</sup> I was admitted for tests and or investigations
- <sup>14</sup> Don't know/I was not told
- <sup>15</sup> Other, please specify

**Q62. What is your month and year of birth?**  
(Please tick the month and write in the year)

- January
- February
- March
- April
- May
- June
- July
- August
- September
- October
- November
- December

(Please write in)

e.g. 

1	9	6	1
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Y	Y	Y	Y
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We ask the next two questions because we would like to know if the people who responded to the survey represent all sections of our society.

**Q63. What is your ethnic or cultural background?**

(Tick **ONE** box only)

**White:**

- Irish
- Irish Traveller
- Roma
- Any other White background

**Black or Black Irish:**

- African
- Any other Black background

**Asian or Asian Irish:**

- Chinese
- Indian/Pakistani/Bangladeshi
- Any other Asian background

**Other, including mixed group/background:**

- Arabic
- Mixed, write in description

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- Other, write in description

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**Q64. Do you currently have:**

- A medical card?
- Private health insurance?
- Both** a medical card and private health insurance?
- Neither** a medical card nor private health insurance?

## Other Comments

Thank you very much for taking part in this survey. Please feel free to tell us about your hospital stay by answering the questions below. You can use the back page of the questionnaire if you need more space. Comments will be entered into a secure database after removing any information that could identify you.

This anonymised feedback will be looked at by HIQA, the HSE and the Department of Health to try to understand and improve patients' experiences in hospital. Other researchers may also analyse anonymised data from this survey in the future, after all personal information that could identify you has been removed. We will give examples of feedback in the final survey reports to provide a fuller understanding of patients' experiences.

**Q65. Was there anything particularly good about your hospital care?**

**Q66. Was there anything that could be improved?**

**Q67. Do you have any comments about how the COVID-19 pandemic affected the care you received in hospital?**

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**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR HELP!**

Please check that you have answered all of the questions that apply to you.

Please return this questionnaire in the Freepost envelope provided. No stamp is needed.

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