

N. Ireland Cancer Registry Implications of Research for Services

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Paper Title	Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on cancer care in Ireland - Perspectives from a COVID-19 and Cancer Working Group
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Conclusion	<p>The normal functioning of cancer services in Ireland, was disrupted during the COVID-19 pandemic for several reasons including prioritisation of COVID-19-related care, staff redeployment, and public hesitancy in seeking medical evaluation due to fears of contracting the virus.</p> <p>The Irish Cancer Society brought together a diverse group of experts to understand the challenges faced during the pandemic and discuss potential ways to mitigate the effects.</p> <p>The group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - emphasized the importance of timely data collection and analysis to better understand the impact of the pandemic on cancer outcomes. - Highlighted the need for adequate resources to support cancer care and address the disruptions caused by the pandemic. - supported future research to study the long-term effects of cancer patients and services. - Highlighted the importance of recruiting and retaining healthcare workers working with cancer patients.

	- supported increased mental health support for both patients and oncology professionals.
What this means for the service	There is a need for clear public health messaging to encourage people to seek medical attention when they develop cancer symptoms. The development of more timely comprehensive cancer datasets should be supported. A robust digital and physical infrastructure to manage current and future challenges to cancer care systems is needed.