

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-240

OUTCOME 3: Access to Medical Services

Topic: MEDICAL TREATMENT OVERSEAS (MTO) PROGRAM

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Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

In relation to applications received by the Medical Treatment Overseas (MTO) Program between 2008 and now, can you tell me for what conditions treatment was sought, and in what countries?

Answer:

To avoid the possible identification of individuals, the Department of Health and Ageing provides the following information about conditions and treatment sought under the Medical Treatment Overseas (MTO) Program since 2008:

General Condition	Treatment Sought
Cancer (including chordoma, chondrosarcoma, ocular melanoma, adenocarcinoma, adenoid cystic carcinoma, rhabdomyosarcoma, craniopharyngioma, osteosarcoma, neuroblastoma, lung cancer, breast cancer, basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stereotactic radiosurgery (for example, CyberKnife, GammaKnife and Tomotherapy) • proton beam radiotherapy • brachytherapy • chemotherapy • immunotherapy • photodynamic therapy • clinical drug trials • surgical tumour resections • combinations of the above
Syndromes requiring organ transplantation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transplantation surgeries (for example, bowel and thymus transplantation)
Cardiothoracic malformations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cardiothoracic surgery (for example, venous reconstruction and ablations)
Spinal and cerebral conditions (other than cancer) requiring neurosurgery and orthopaedic surgeries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • surgery (for example, exploration and removal of meningeal cysts, debridement, phrenic nerve reconstruction and deep brain stimulation)
Conditions (other than cancer) requiring ear/nose/throat, abdominal, urinary or eye surgeries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • surgery (for example, osteo-odonto-keratoprosthesis and cyst removal)
Conditions requiring non-surgical inpatient care and treatment (including anorexia nervosa, oral aversion/tube dependency, dystonia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • non surgical treatment (for example, tube weaning and other intensive residential feeding programs, deep brain stimulation review and maintenance and stem cell treatment)

Approximately 50 per cent of patients have sought treatment in the United States, about

40 per cent seek access to treatment in Europe (including Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom), and the remainder in countries in Asia (such as China, India, Japan, Malaysia and Singapore).