

## 7.06 The Impact Of OSA On The St James' Hospital Respiratory Outpatients Referral Burden

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**Background:** Obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA) is a highly prevalent but underdiagnosed condition. The prevalence of OSA in Ireland is unknown, but international data indicate that at least 4% of the adult population have OSA. Most of these patients will need to be managed by respiratory clinicians, but we have little data on the workload OSA referrals impose on Irish chest clinics. **Method:** We performed a prospective assessment of non-cancer respiratory referrals in a large teaching hospital sent via the Healthlink primary care referral portal during the months of May and July 2024, and categorised them by referral indication and location. **Results:** 301 patients were referred. 40% had OSA as the indication for referral. Other indications included chronic cough (15%), asthma (7%), COPD (7%) and TB (7%). Of the 121 referrals where the indication was OSA, 46% were female with an average age of 51 years and 53% were male with an average age of 46 years. 17% were from outside our catchment; 25% were marked as urgent. **Conclusion:** OSA is the most common indication for referral to respiratory clinics from primary care, and the burden it places on respiratory clinic workloads should be considered in service design and workforce planning. **Disclosures:** Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.