

INTERIM REPORT

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<http://research.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/epidemiology/COEH/research/thor/schemes/ireland/>

BACKGROUND

This document provides a brief update of the cases reported to the various THOR-ROI reporting schemes during the inclusive period of July to September 2020. This should not be viewed as a 'stand-alone' document but as a supplement to previous interim quarterly reports and 'substantive' annual reports (the most recent of which was submitted in Sept 2020).

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Reporters to THOR-ROI returned 31 cases and 10 nil returns¹. The number of cases, nil returns and participating physicians for the quarter of July – Sept 2020, compared to the same quarter in 2019, are provided in Table 1.

Table 1 Number of physicians, cases and nil returns reported by scheme July-Sept 2020 and July-Sept 2019

	July – Sept 2020			July – Sept 2019*		
	Physicians	Cases	Nil returns	Physicians	Cases	Nil returns
OPRA	27	19	5	27	11	8
EPIDERM	12	5	5	13	2	5
SWORD	9	7	0	10	5	0
THOR-GP	20	0	0	20	0	0

*Totals may have increased from previous reporting due to the submission of late cases.

OVERVIEW OF CASES BY SCHEME

OPRA-ROI

The 27 occupational physicians currently reporting to OPRA-ROI returned 19 case reports and 5 nil returns during the third quarter of 2020, taking the total number of cases returned by OPs since the scheme commenced in 2007 to 1929. Of the 19 cases reported to OPRA-ROI this quarter, 79% of the cases were females and the age range (all cases) was 26 to 63 years (mean age = 46 years).

The 19 cases reported this quarter comprised 10 musculoskeletal disorders, 6 mental ill-health problems, 2 'other' diseases and 1 skin disease. No respiratory or hearing loss cases were reported this quarter.

Diagnostic sub-categories:

Figure 1 provides an overview of the cases reported this quarter by diagnostic sub-category:

- The 10 musculoskeletal cases (12 diagnoses) were reported under the following anatomical sites: back (6 diagnoses); shoulder (2 diagnoses); other sites (2 diagnoses); neck (1 diagnosis); and knee (1 diagnosis).
- The 6 mental ill-health cases (8 diagnoses) were specified as follows: work-related stress (3 diagnoses); insomnia (2 diagnoses); anxiety (1 diagnosis); unhappiness/worries (1 diagnosis) and post-traumatic stress disorder (1 diagnosis).
- The 2 other diseases were post-viral fatigue (1 diagnosis) and tuberculosis (1 diagnosis).
- The skin disease was perioral dermatitis (1 diagnosis).

¹ nil return = a physician tells us that they did not see any cases of work-related ill-health in their reporting month

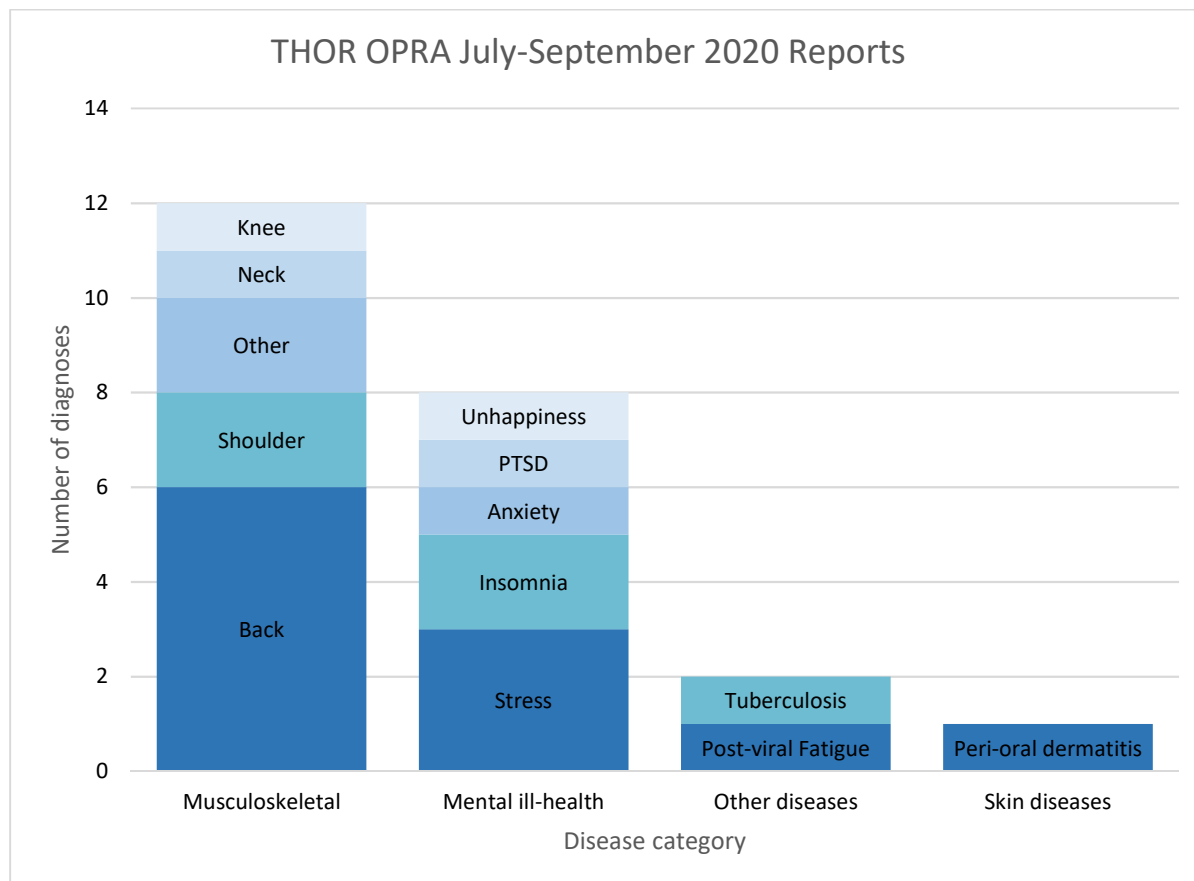


Figure 1: Number of cases of work-related ill-health reported to OPRA-ROI by diagnostic sub-category (July-September 2020)

Industry and occupation:

All cases reported were from the health and social care sector, and the occupations reported within this sector were nurses 47% (9/19), nursing assistants 26% (5/19), medical practitioners 5% (1/19), psychologists 5% (1/19), housing & welfare officers 5% (1/19), filing and other records assistants 5% (1/19) and telephonists 5% (1/19).

Suspected agents / precipitating events / tasks and movements:

The most frequently reported event for cases with a work-related mental ill-health diagnosis this quarter was factors intrinsic to workload (3 cases). Other reported events were interpersonal relationships (2 cases), organisational factors (1 case), traumatic events (1 case) and reduction in resources (1 case).

For the musculoskeletal disorders, the associated tasks and movements were accidents (7 cases) and heavy lifting (5 cases).

EPIDERM-ROI

The 12 dermatologists currently reporting to EPIDERM-ROI returned 5 cases of work-related skin disease and 5 nil returns for the third quarter of 2020 (total ever cases = 528). Of cases reported this quarter 4 cases (80%) were females and the mean age was 42 years old (age range 28-59).

All cases were reported as contact dermatitis. Three diagnoses were specified as allergic contact dermatitis, two of these case were reported in a farmer and a packer, and were attributed to rubber. The third allergic contact dermatitis case was reported in a beautician and attributed to cosmetics.

The two irritant contact dermatitis cases were reported in nurses, one was attributed to PPE (specifically face masks) and the other was hand washing.

SWORD-ROI

7 cases of work-related respiratory disease were reported to SWORD-ROI in the third quarter of 2020 (total cases ever reported = 239). All cases were reported in males with a mean age of 57 years (age range 46-70 years).

Of reported cases, 5 were diagnosed with asthma, of these 1 case was reported in a metal working machine operative attributed to aluminium compounds and paints. The other 4 diagnoses of asthma were reported in construction operatives and were attributed to isocyanates. Two of all cases reported to SWORD-ROI this quarter were diagnosed with inhalation accident and mesothelioma. The inhalation accident case was reported in a maintenance general operative and was attributed to chlorine dioxide, while the mesothelioma case was reported in a builder and was attributed to asbestos.

THOR-GP-ROI

No cases of work-related ill-health were reported to THOR-GP-ROI in the third quarter of 2020.

NEWS

As we move towards the end of an unusual year, we are pleased to see that reporting to THOR has increased over the summer period. We would like to continue to encourage reporters to report electronically via a web form accessed from your scheme's web page.

For SWORD-ROI, EPIDERM-ROI and OPRA-ROI, the webpage is:

<http://research.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/epidemiology/COEH/research/thor/schemes/ireland>

For THOR-GP-ROI, the webpage is:

<http://research.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/epidemiology/COEH/research/thorgp/>

You will need a username (which is made up of the scheme name and your centre number) and password (which is made up of three letters, two numbers then three letters e.g. abc12def) to access the web form. Please feel free to contact us if you wish this information to be provided again. When reporting electronically, please remember to submit a nil return if you have nothing to report for the month.

We would also like to highlight our new Twitter page for THOR. Please follow us to keep up to date with the latest news from the network. Our Twitter handle is @THOR_UoM or you can follow us via the link below:

https://twitter.com/THOR_UoM

Many thanks for your continued support to THOR-ROI. Please feel free to contact us (see Table 2 for contact details) if you have any queries regarding the reporting process.

REMINDER OF HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

Please let us know if you have any questions in relation to the data presented in this quarterly report or any other related matter. In addition, we would welcome any comments or suggestions in

relation to recruitment of new physicians and improvements for presenting our data. We are very keen to collaborate with anyone who is interested in using the THOR-ROI or THOR-UK data to investigate a particular area of interest. Furthermore, please let us know if you would like to present THOR-ROI or THOR-UK data at any future meetings; simply email ireny.iskandar@manchester.ac.uk.

THOR CONTACTS

Table 2 provides contact details for the THOR team. Please feel free to contact us if you have any queries.

Table 2 THOR-ROI Contact details

SCHEME	email
EPIDERM / SWORD	laura.byrne@manchester.ac.uk
OPRA / THOR-GP	susan.taylor@manchester.ac.uk
DATA REQUESTS / GENERAL ENQUIRIES	ireny.iskandar@manchester.ac.uk sarah.daniels@manchester.ac.uk kim.fowler@manchester.ac.uk