

Budget 2027 allocates **+€1.76bn** to health, bringing the 2027 total to **€29.1bn**. That’s €27.4bn current (up €1.6bn) and €1.7bn capital (up €160m). Framing includes: **better utilisation** of existing resources; opening **new capacity**; continuing **ongoing reforms**. 2027 a **pivotal year for digital**. Explicit commitment to grow **community faster than acute**. Pay bill increases largely for wage increases rather than additional workforce (other than funded through new developments). Range of **preventative initiatives** in new developments.

What Budget 2027 says

Headline figures



€29.1bn

Nearly a quarter of voted State spend in 2027 to health



+€1.76bn

Total increase in the health budget, +6.4%



€1.7bn

2027 capital, including acutes, beds, hubs, digital



€175m

Nearly 40% of the gov efficiency levy allocated to health



1.8m

Home support hours added: care closer to home



€2.1bn

Capital allocation for 2030, under NDP envelope

€367m new developments costed in budget



€196m

Older persons, home support



€108m

Mental health and ADHD



€36m

Prevention and inclusion



€18m

Children’s oral health



€7m

GP out-of-hours access



€2m

Contraception free to age 37

Focus on community care

Community will now see higher growth than acute

- **Care at home:** 1.8m hours; +€2m Meals on Wheels
- **Cancer care:** more delivered in community settings
- **Primary:** ‘Stronger GP, pharmacy, community services’
- **Mental health:** +4 Jigsaw, & other youth & adult services
- **Capacity:** more community and mental health beds

Some core reforms and new ways of working



Stronger regional budget accountability – regions will direct nearly 60% of total health budget



Higher utilisation of theatres, clinics and diagnostics, including evening and weekend working



Surgical hubs expanded, extra theatres, 6 days / wk



Less reliance on agency staff, including through redeployment and improved rostering



Procurement savings via the new finance system



Virtual care being expanded in each region

Digital health

2027 a ‘pivotal year’ for digital health

- Health **IT funding up 14%** to €768m
- **HSE App** rollout to continue
- **Shared care record** rollout to expand
- **Electronic Health Record** system implementation to be advanced
- **ePrescribing** sees further developments
- New **digital solutions** for certain administration activities

Some challenges and opportunities (combination of official and external assessments)



2027 rise to absorb 2026 overrun (~€1bn)
Recurring productivity & cost improvement essential to sustaining the €1.76bn increase



Additional pay funding for pay agreements
Pay funding rise for wage agreements, not for new posts, means **redeployment required**



Financial realities of ageing population
Rapid growth of +65 and + 85 cohorts makes **community & preventative shifts essential**



Waiting lists shift away from NTPF
NTPF –25% to €150m; Surgical hubs and productivity to provide additional HSE activity



Population health management
Regions have the opportunity to **redesign models of care** to local population needs



Focus on physical and digital infrastructure
Health capital **+10.3%** vs +5.9% overall government increase

What the future holds

Community services to grow faster than acutes. **Capital investment** to be protected. Growth in **current expenditure** likely to be lower than recent years. Shift from “building a bigger State to building a better one”, with **productivity** central. Major focus on **digital**, with urgent need for productivity gain from same. Essential shift **from reactive acute-based care to proactive, preventative, community-based care**.

Sources: Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation, Budget2027 Expenditure Report (6October 2026): Part I, Chapters 1–3; Part II, Chapter 12 Health; Part III, Vote 38 Health and Capital Investment Allocations 2026–2030. Department of Health, Budget 2027 press release (7 October 2026). Minister for Public Expenditure, Budget 2027 speech. Irish Fiscal Advisory Council, Budget 2027 Flash Release.