



Ms. Clare Daly, TD
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

General Manager Primary Care,
HSE Community Healthcare Organisation
Dublin North City & County,
Ballymun Healthcare Facility,
Ballymun, Dublin 9, DO9 C8P5.

10th June 2019

PQ 22009/19 –To ask the Minister for Health the reason a free foot assessment service for persons with diabetes has been withdrawn from north County Dublin; and the steps he will take to reinstate same – Clare Daly

Dear Deputy Daly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

An initiative was developed in 2015 for HSE Community Services, Dublin North where a number of Registered General Nurses (RGNs) were trained in diabetic foot screening. Once training was complete, monthly clinics were held throughout the Dublin North networks.

The National Clinical Care Programme for Diabetes introduced a Senior Podiatrist post to the Dublin North/Beaumont Hospital catchment area in 2017 who runs clinics from Coolock Primary Care Centre and Balbriggan Primary Care Centre. The Podiatrist assesses/reviews and provides a management plan specifically in relation to foot health and Diabetes. With the introduction of the new Podiatry service, a review was conducted on the numbers attending the Nursing monthly foot screening service. It was noted from this review that the attendance rate had reduced to a point that it was no longer feasible to continue with the service. The low attendance rate resulted in nursing staff unable to maintain their skills for this initiative.

Therefore the Nursing foot clinic will not be reinstated as diabetic clients can avail of the Podiatry service offered in both Coolock and Balbriggan Primary Care Centres. For access to this service a referral form completed by GP, Hospital or Primary care staff can be sent via email to : referrals.nd@hse.ie or alternatively by post to: *HSE Podiatry Service, CHO Dublin North City & County, Fujitsu House, Unit 100, 1st Floor Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co. Dublin, K67 R8X2.*

GPs can also provide Diabetic foot screening.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Forde
General Manager
Primary Care