



29th November 2019

Deputy Tom Neville,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 47226/19 – To ask the Minister for Health the wait time for orthotic shoes within the Health Service Executive; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 47227/19 - To ask the Minister for Health the estimated wear time for persons wearing orthotic shoes; and if he will make a statement on the matter

-Tom Neville

Dear Deputy Neville,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

At present the HSE provides orthotics, prosthetics, and specialised footwear services which are funded and waitlisted at Community Healthcare Organisation level. The service is also subject to policy at local level and this may lead to variations in access between different areas.

However, all referrals are prioritised by the receiving Orthotist according to criteria which ensures that clients with the greatest clinical need are seen at the earliest opportunity. While clinical need is not based on age, a growing skeleton is considered when assessing risk and prioritising. The policies ensure that the clients with the greatest clinical need are seen at the earliest opportunity.

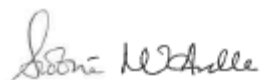
As a consequence, the wait times for individual clients are upwards of one month, and vary considerably based on the individual clinical prioritization and local policies.

It is difficult to estimate the wear time of an orthotic device as there are many variables that can affect this. These include the type of device, client weight and size, functional ability, and usage. Some applicants will require footwear regularly as they are very mobile, have foot deformities or other serious medical conditions and others require them less often as they are only required to assist in transfers from wheelchairs etc.

Primary Care seeks to deliver orthotic devices in a timely manner based on clinical need, and in doing so minimise inconvenience and discomfort to clients, while facilitating them to make the most of their independence.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Siobhán McArdle,
Head of Operations Primary Care,
Community Operations