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12th November 2019

Deputy Michael Harty,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 43747/19- To ask the Minister for Health the persons or bodies within his Department and the HSE responsible for the delivery of diabetic care; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Michael Harty

Dear Deputy Harty,

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.

Within the HSE, healthcare for people with diabetes is delivered in General Practice, in the community and in the acute care setting.

General Practice

The Model of Integrated Care for Patients with type 2 diabetes (2018), approved by HSE and the Irish College of General Practitioners, outlines that those living with uncomplicated type 2 diabetes should be managed in general practice. Those living with complicated type 2 diabetes should receive shared care between general practice and secondary care. The GP and practice nurse provide this structured diabetes care in general practice working in close collaboration with community healthcare professionals (see below) and secondary care when required. The recent agreement between the Department of Health and the Irish Medical Organisation on a major package of GP contractual reform is a significant and welcome step forward in formalising and standardising structured diabetes care delivery in general practice. The GP contractual reform will provide resources solely for people with Type 2 diabetes (T2DM) in possession of a 'medical card'. Recent research shows that in excess of thirty percent of people with T2DM do not have a 'medical card'.

Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs)

CHOs are community healthcare services outside of acute hospitals, such as primary care, social care, mental health, and other health and well-being services. These services are delivered through the HSE and its funded agencies to people in local communities, as close as possible to their homes. The Chief Officer and Management Team of each CHO have full authority and responsibility for service delivery within that CHO. In relation to diabetes care, healthcare professionals such as Clinical Nurse Specialists Diabetes Integrated Care, Diabetes Dieticians and Community Podiatrists are all based within CHOs and deliver care in the community.

Hospital Groups

The acute hospitals in Ireland are organised into **Seven Hospital Groups**. The services delivered include inpatient scheduled care, unscheduled/emergency care, maternity services, outpatient and diagnostic services. The Group Chief Executive of each Hospital Group reports to the National Director for Acute Services and is accountable for their Hospital Groups planning and performance under the **HSE Accountability Framework**.

All people living with diabetes may require unscheduled access to secondary care at any point to manage an acute episode related to their diabetes. For routine management of diabetes, the Model of Integrated Care for Patients with type 2 diabetes (2018) outlines that all those with complicated type 2 diabetes should have shared care between General Practice and secondary care. All those with type 1 diabetes should be solely managed in secondary care (outpatient consultant clinics).

National Clinical Programme for Diabetes

The National Clinical Programme for Diabetes (NCP Diabetes) was established in 2010 under the HSE's Clinical Strategy and Programmes Division. Working under the direction of the National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead (NCAGL) for Chronic Disease and supported by the RCPI Diabetes Clinical Advisory Group, the NCP Diabetes aims to influence positive change and improve care for people living with diabetes across the entire spectrum of healthcare delivery: self-management support; general practice; specialist support to general practice; specialist ambulatory care; and hospital inpatient specialist care.

Like other clinical programmes, the work of the NCP Diabetes is progressed through a National Working Group which includes representatives from Medicine, Nursing, Health and Social Care Professionals, Patient Advocacy, patient representatives and others.

NCP Diabetes Key Achievements to date:

- Developed Model of Integrated Care for Patients with type 2 diabetes (2018)
- Developed Model of Care Diabetic Foot (2011)
- Overseen recruitment of diabetes healthcare professionals including 33 Integrated Care Clinical Nurse Specialists; 22 Acute Care Podiatrists; 9 Senior Podiatrists; 18 Community Diabetes Dietitians.
- Developed NCEC Adult Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus Guideines (2018)
- Developed National Survey of Diabetes Care Delivery in Acute Hospitals (2018)
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I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



David Walsh,
National Director,
Community Operations