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Deputy Bernard J. Durkan, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 5569/21

To ask the Minister for Health if he will consider the launching of a major campaign to identify and treat type 1 and type 2 diabetes throughout the country with a view to eradication much in the same way tuberculosis was eradicated notwithstanding the stress of Covid-19 on the system; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Durkan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme for Diabetes on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune condition. Guidelines for managing type 1 diabetes in Ireland were published in 2018 with endorsement by the Minister for Health (Accessible here: [adult-type-1-diabetes-mellitus.pdf \(hse.ie\)](#)). These guidelines advocate for the delivery of high quality structured patient education to help with self-management of the condition.

Type 2 diabetes may be prevented or its onset delayed by helping people achieve significant weight loss through intensive lifestyle modification and/or metabolic surgery.

There are a number of initiatives in operation and in development within the HSE to help prevent, identify and treat type 2 diabetes including:

- A national framework for Making Every Contact Count (MECC) focusing on the primary prevention of chronic disease including diabetes. Further information available here: [Making Every Contact Count - HSE.ie](#)
- The National Clinical Programme for Diabetes recognises the importance of developing a targeted, evidenced-based Diabetes Prevention Programme, for those individuals with laboratory tests indicating pre-diabetes. In 2019, an application to the Sláintecare Integration Fund to progress development of a National Diabetes Prevention Programme (DPP) was successful. The pilot DPP will commence delivery in Q2 2021. National rollout will progress throughout 2021.

- Implementation of the new Chronic Disease Programme as part of the GP contractual reforms (2019). The aim of this programme is to take a population level approach to prevention and management of chronic diseases that will benefit over 430,000 GMS / GPVC patients. It will result in improved management of type 2 diabetes in general practice, early detection of complications or new conditions reducing the risk of worsening health and/or hospital admissions and detection of patients at-risk of developing type 2 diabetes with the aim of prevention. Further information available here: [Chronic Disease Management Programme - HSE.ie](#)
- The HSE published the Model of Integrated Care for Type 2 Diabetes in 2018 (Accessible here: [model-of-integrated-care-type-2-diabetes-2018.pdf \(hse.ie\)](#)). A major focus of this model of care is bringing specialist care that historically would only have existed in a hospital setting into the community. To support the implementation of this model, the National Clinical Programme for Diabetes has overseen the recruitment of community posts including clinical nurse specialists (CNS), dietitians and podiatrists. These specialist supports to primary care serve as an integrating force between primary and secondary care, allowing patients with more complicated T2DM to be managed in the community closer to their homes.
- Reducing the number of diabetes-related amputations is a major goal of the NCP Diabetes. Over the past number of years, the HSE has appointed 31 new diabetes specialist podiatrists. The first 22 of these posts have been deployed in the acute (hospital) setting with a focus on dealing with the management of patients with active foot disease. As mentioned above, nine community podiatry posts were also appointed to the community setting, focusing on foot protection. The NCP Diabetes is currently finalising an update to the Diabetic Foot Model of Care.
- For those diagnosed with type two diabetes, the HSE provides specialised self-management education courses. The HSE currently supports three interactive group courses for people with type 2 diabetes: DISCOVER Type 2 diabetes, DESMOND and CODE. During the COVID-19 global pandemic, these education courses are been delivered in an online format. Further information on these courses is available here: [Diabetes support courses - HSE.ie](#).
- A national framework for Self-Management Support (SMS) enabling those living with chronic conditions (including diabetes) to manage their own conditions and focus on secondary prevention. Further information available here: [Self-Management Support for Long-term Health Conditions - HSE.ie](#)

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



Anne Horgan
General Manager