



Seán Crowe TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

18th February 2021

PQ 7524/21

“To ask the Minister for Health his plans to expand the provision of glasses for children under the medical card system (details supplied). - Seán Crowe

Details supplied: To provide glasses more frequently for children who suffer from conditions such as Koolen De Vries Syndrome and, as a consequence, require quite expensive high prescription glasses with thinned down lenses and which, as children are prone to do, they grow out of faster than the current two year period that is allowed between claims of glasses”

Dear Deputy Crowe,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 7524/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

There are no plans at present to expand the provision of glasses for children under the medical card system. The HSE provides a standard rate for the provision of glasses through the Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service (PCERS). Children are awarded varying amounts depending on their prescription.

There is a standard allowance available through PCERS and the 9 Community Health Organisations (CHOs) are allocated budgets to fund services in their area. Each CHO has the autonomy to spend these budgets in a way that best meets the specific needs of their area.

The HSE is committed to ensuring that all eligible service users have access to the relevant and applicable standard allowances to support optimum vision throughout childhood.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

TJ Dunford

Head of Operations; Primary Care.
Community Operations.