



CÚRAM SLÁINTE POBAIL
CORCAIGH CIARRAÍ
CORK KERRY
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

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24th February, 2022.

Mr. Christopher O'Sullivan, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 10027/22

"To ask the Minister for Health if there is a plan for improving podiatry services in south-western areas of County Cork for persons with diabetes; the plans that are in place to address the staff shortage; and if he will make a statement on the matter."

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

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.

Currently there is no Network Podiatry Service in West Cork despite a national recruitment campaign to fill vacancies which have arisen, including a post in West Cork which has fallen vacant due to a retirement. There is a local recruitment campaign due to commence in the coming weeks to try and secure suitably qualified staff for the West Cork service, as well as fill vacancies throughout Cork and Kerry which we failed to fill through the National Recruitment Service. There are interim arrangements in place to see priority cases.

In terms of Diabetes, historically patients with Diabetes were seen by the Network Podiatrists based in the Community and this will continue until the Chronic Disease Hub for Diabetes is in place and functioning both in West Cork and all areas in CHO4. The Chronic Disease Hub Team -Diabetes for Network 10 (West Cork) will be based in Ballincollig where a specialised Multi-disciplinary Foot care team comprising of three Podiatrists, Diabetes Specialist Nurses, 6 Dieticians and a Consultant Endocrinologist will be based. These are all new development posts and 2/3 of the Podiatry Posts for this hub have been successfully filled.

These Hub Teams will also liaise closely with the Acute services in order to achieve the best outcomes for patients and seamless transition from one area to the other.

All ongoing assessments and enhanced treatment for the Diabetic Foot will be provided by the specialist Diabetes team, including Podiatrists, and not by the Podiatrists in the Networks.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Priscilla Lynch
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

