



7th March 2022

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan
Dáil Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 10176/22

To ask the Minister for Health the progress made to date in the ongoing recruitment process for podiatrists for the HSE chronic disease management community hubs; when the number will be increased; the plan underway to improve podiatry services in County Kildare for persons with diabetes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Bernard J. Durkan

Dear Deputy Durkan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The 4 chronic disease hubs in Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow, each have an allocation of 1 clinical specialist podiatrist, 1 senior podiatrist & 1 basic grade podiatrist, under the diabetes specialist community team - a total of 12 posts. To date, 2 senior podiatrists and 3 basic grade podiatrists have been recruited across the four chronic disease hubs and recruitment is ongoing.

Currently there is a 0.6 WTE senior podiatrist, and 1 WTE basic grade podiatrist based in Kildare Primary Care Centre. Referrals to the service are prioritised with access to a vascular review in the acute hospitals within 48 hrs if required. These resources are already improving the lot of service users located in Kildare and environs, as their needs are being treated closer to home, in line with Sláintecare objectives. I look forward to seeing the full complement of podiatrists in place in due course and the associated benefits for service users in County Kildare, West Wicklow and Dublin South.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but if you have any queries or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mary O'Kelly
Head of Service, Primary Care
Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare