



Dearadh agus Nuálaíocht Chliniciúil; Oifig an Príohifigeach Cliniciúil  
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Deputy David Cullinane, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**RE: PQ 9386/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of full-time diabetes podiatrists by county and hospital in each of the years 2018 to 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 (NCP Diabetes) on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Over the past number of years, the HSE has appointed new diabetes podiatrist posts. The first 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. The most recent HSE podiatry appointments have been made in primary care. Each Community Health Organisation (CHO) will now have community-based podiatrists assigned to provide care to patients with diabetes at risk of future ulceration or limb loss. These positions will support both the General Practitioner (GP) and acute hospitals.

In 2020, the Health Service Executive (HSE) published *The National Framework for the Integrated Prevention and Management of Chronic Disease (2020-2025)*, which adopted a whole system approach to integrated care. This coincided with a reformed GP contract which will provide reimbursement for opportunistic case finding, prevention and care for people with diabetes. This specifically incorporates a detailed foot assessment. In line with these developments, new Diabetes Community Specialist Teams are being recruited to include nurses, dietitians and podiatrists. To support implementation of integrated diabetic foot care, 30 WTE Clinical Specialist Podiatrists, 34 WTE Senior Podiatrists and 29 Staff Grade Podiatrists are being recruited to staff Specialist Ambulatory Care Hubs across the 9 Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs). In addition to supporting integration of care and to address acute gaps in service, 3 WTE Clinical Specialist and 3 WTE Senior Podiatrists are being recruited for acute services.

The table overleaf provides figures on Diabetes Podiatry positions that are community- and hospital-based by County for the time period 2018-2020.

<b>Diabetes Podiatry positions (community &amp; hospital-based) by County</b>	<b>2018-2020 WTEs</b>
Carlow	0
Cavan	1
Clare	0
Cork	2
Donegal	0.8
Dublin	2
Galway	1
Kerry	1
Kildare	0
Kilkenny	1
Laois	1
Leitrim	0
Limerick	3
Longford	0
Louth	1
Mayo	1
Meath	1
Monaghan	0
Offaly	0
Roscommon	1
Sligo	1
Tipperary	1
Waterford	1
Westmeath	2
Wexford	1
Wicklow	1

The HSE Enhanced Community Care (ECC) programme funding has provided the biggest uplift of community podiatrists, with 93 integrated care diabetes podiatrists and an additional 6 podiatrists allocated to acute service. The recruitment for these diabetes podiatrists commenced in mid-2021 across the country and continues to date.

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




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**Anne Horgan**  
General Manager