



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse,
Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil,
An Cabhan, Muineachan, Sligeach,
Liatroim & Dun na nGall

Head of Service
Primary Care CHO1
Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo
Leitrim & Donegal

Tel ; 047 95615 / 95616

Email: dermot.monaghan@hse.ie

04th March 2022

Deputy Marian Harkin TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ9535/22 - “To ask the Minister for Health his plans following the recently launched HSE model of care for the diabetic foot to address the shortage of podiatry specialists in CHO1 acute and community services; the status of plans for improving podiatry services for persons with diabetes in counties Sligo and Leitrim and nationally; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy Harkin,

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 Chief Officer, CHO 1 for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The development of Chronic Disease Hubs will build on the already excellent foot services provided for the population of CHO1. There will be 3 Chronic Disease Hubs across CHO1, each having 1 WTE Clinical Specialist, 1 WTE Senior Podiatrist and 1 WTE Staff Grade Podiatrist. These Podiatrists will become the key team members of the Foot Protection Team (FPT). In line with the Model of Care 2021, the FPT will assess and implement treatment plans for diabetes patients who are in remission of a foot ulcer/Charcot foot, high and moderate risk diabetes patients. The Foot Protection Podiatrists will lead on education to GPs and Practice Nurses on foot screening of diabetic patients and onward referral for moderate, high, in remission and active foot disease. Low risk patients will remain under the management of GPs. As each hub has a central location: Sligo Town, Letterkenny and Cavan Town, where necessary members of the FPT may run spoke clinics in areas where there is a demand (Carrick on Shannon, Donegal town, Monaghan). Current staff for CDM across CHO1: 5/9 posts, staff are currently in posts, 2/9 at interview stage (scheduled 15/3/22) and 2/9 posts are awaiting new panel formation.

Through the development of the Community Health Networks, Podiatry have been allocated 4 WTE senior posts and 2 WTE staff grade posts across CHO1. These new post holders along with the existing podiatry workforce will be required to deliver services that aspire to the eight fundamental principles of the Sláintecare. The current status is 4 WTE senior posts accepted along with 3 WTE in post currently. There are 2 WTE staff grade posts at interview stage which are scheduled for 15/3/22. HSE Podiatric Services (now the network) have not been in a position to offer care to clients who were not very high risk, this includes both diabetic and non-diabetic. The traditional needs – led service model ensured that those who required Podiatric intervention most urgently were prioritised. High Risk Diabetics and those with foot wounds used up on average 80% of available resources leaving very little for a large



population with other urgent foot care needs. The New network podiatrist posts will mark the return to a local, needs led service as the diabetes cohort of patients will now attend their local CDM hub. This allows the service to focus on urgent non diabetic foot problems of the local population.

The Majority of the Podiatric Foot Services will be provided at a local level by the Network Podiatry Services for non-diabetes patients.

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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Mandy Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Amanda Doyle,
A/Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil
An Cabhán, Muineachán, Sligeach, Liatroim & Dún na nGall
A/Head of Service, Primary Care, Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo, Leitrim & Donegal.