



**Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroibríochtaí**

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5th July 2022

Deputy Roisin Shortall

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2.

PQ 30539/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of planned whole-time equivalent clinical specialists and whole-time equivalent senior podiatrists posts for HSE acute hospital diabetes services that have physically taken up posts; the number of each grade that are currently going through the HSE recruitment process; the location of these posts; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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.

I understand am advised by the Enhanced Community Care Programme (ECC) that, in line with Sláintecare, its objective is to deliver increased levels of health care with service delivery reoriented towards general practice, primary care and community-based services. The focus is on implementing an end-to-end care pathway that will care for people at home and over time prevent referrals and admissions to acute hospitals where it is safe and appropriate to do so, and enable a “home first” approach.

The ECC Programme was allocated €240m for the establishment of 96 CHNs, 30 Community Specialist Teams for Older people, 30 Community Specialist Teams for Chronic Disease, national coverage for Community Intervention Teams and the development of a volunteer-type model in collaboration with Alone.

The roll out of the ECC is closely aligned with the implementation of the “GP Agreement 2019”, through which targeted funding of €210m has been provided to general practice to support phased development and modernisation over the period 2019 to 2022. This included €80m for new developments including roll out of the GP Chronic Disease Management programme which will see 430,000 GMS / GP visit care holders participating in the structured programme by the end of 2022. This programme recently received a prestigious united nations award for developing a structured illness and preventative care programme in general practice.

While general practice will provide the core service at CHN level, the Community Specialist Team for Chronic Disease will support general practice in the provision of specialist opinion and input to people with more complex / specialist needs, in respect of Diabetes, Respiratory and Cardiology, with the teams consisting of 32.5 WTE. In line with best international practice each team consists of a variety of specialists including physicians, nursing, health and social care professionals, as well as administrative support. The allocation of resources across the system was undertaken following a comprehensive engagement with local CHO’s and acute hospitals, talking account of and incorporating initiatives that had already been initiated through the Slaintecare SIF fund as well as other demonstration sites and initiatives. The average cost per Community Specialist Team for Chronic Disease in the Community amounts to €2.05m

These Community Specialist Teams will service a population on average of 150,000 equating on average to 3 CHNs. Ideally the teams will be co-located together in ‘hubs’ located in or adjacent to Primary Care Centres reflecting a shift in focus away from the Acute Hospital towards General Practice, Primary Care & Community based service model. The services are fully aligned with the Acute System with clinical governance being provided through the relevant model 4 or 3 Hospitals, but with the services being delivered in the community.



In response to your query regarding the number of whole-time equivalent Podiatry/ Chiropody Grades that have taken up posts in the acutes, please see table below :-

Grade	WTE Onboarded	Location
Chiropodist, Clinical Specialist	1	Sligo University Hospital
Chiropodist, Clinical Specialist	1	Midlands Regional Hospital Portlaoise
Chiropodist, Clinical Specialist	1	Connolly Hospital
Chiropodist/ Podiatrist, Senior	0.5	Letterkenny University Hospital
Chiropodist/ Podiatrist, Senior	0.5	Mayo University Hospital
Chiropodist/ Podiatrist, Senior	0.5	Portinacula Hospital
Chiropodist/ Podiatrist, Senior	0.5	South Tipperary General Hospital
Chiropodist/ Podiatrist	0.5	Our Lady's of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda
Chiropodist/ Podiatrist	0.5	Midlands Regional Hospital Tullamore
Grand Total	6	

In addition to the above posts there are a further 90 Podiatry Grade posts to be recruited for the Chronic Disease ambulatory hubs, please see breakdown below with details of grades:

Grade	Onboarded	At an Advanced Stage of Recruitment	Remaining posts to be recruited	Grand Total
Chiropodist, Clinical Specialist	5.5	2	22.5	30
Chiropodist/ Podiatrist	10	6	13	29
Chiropodist/ Podiatrist, Senior	8	7	16	31
Grand Total	23.5	15	51.5	44.5

There is a continued focus on domestic and international recruitment campaigns to recruit at pace the remaining 51.5 WTE Podiatry for the Community Specialist Teams.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Ivory

General Manager, Acute Operations