



Bainisteoir Ginearálta Cúram Príomhúil,
HSE Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail
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Ms Mary Lou McDonald TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

3rd July 2023

PQ 29240/23 – *“To ask the Minister for Health the current eye care services available to children aged eight years and over in CHO 9”* – **Mary Lou McDonald TD**

Dear Deputy McDonald

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) Ophthalmology team located in to Grangegorman Primary Care Centre provide full vision assessment and management for children including Ophthalmological, Optometric, and Orthoptic care.

The team provide ongoing monitoring of the child’s vision and function and refer directly to Temple Street Children’s University Hospital when agreed referral criteria is identified. They liaise with support services, the Visiting teacher service for educational support (<https://ncse.ie/visiting-teachers>), Eye Clinic Liaison Officer (CLO) services, Occupational Therapy and Disability services.

Children who pass their school screen but are identified as having a risk factor for vision loss are also referred to the Ophthalmology department in to Grangegorman Primary Care Centre, where the team carry out a full diagnostic ophthalmology assessment.

Please see below the clinic details held by the CHO DNCC Ophthalmology team for children aged eight years and over in CHO DNCC:

- Orthoptic clinic - Mix of new and return patients that require diagnosis and management of binocular vision function.
- Combined Orthoptic and Optometry (COOL) - Mix of new and return patients who require assessment by an Orthoptist and an Optometrist.
- Optometrist clinic - Mix of new and return patients that require diagnosis and management of refractive error and pathology.
- Community Ophthalmic Physician (COP) - Mix of new and return patients that require Ophthalmologist opinion.

- AN (Additional Needs) Clinic - Combined Orthoptist and Optometrist. Management of patients with strabismus or refractive errors that have complex needs for example children with ASD and Downs Syndrome. This clinic is tailored to facilitate children with complex needs.
- Nurse Vision Clinic - Children requiring vision check.
- Re-screening of older children that failed school screening where test was failed by less than one line.
- Nurse Imaging Clinic - Imaging requested by Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT): Optometrists, Orthoptists and Community Ophthalmic Physicians.
- Medical Ophthalmology Registrar Clinic - Mix of new and return patients that require a medical opinion.

The CHO DNCC Ophthalmology team can be contacted at 01 867 6291 or 01 867 6292

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,



Michelle Forde
General Manager
Primary Care Dublin North West