



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,
An Lú, An Mhí

Oifig na bPríomhoifigeach, An Chéad Urlár,
Coimpléasc Naomh Bríd, Bóthar Cheanannais
Bhaile Átha Fhirdia, Co Lú, A92 DRN0

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17th July 2023

Deputy Imelda Munster,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 29864/23 - To ask the Minister for Health why there is no over eights voucher scheme for glasses in CHO8, (Louth and Meath) when there is a voucher scheme or allowance available in other CHO areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Imelda Munster

Dear Deputy Munster,

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 have examined the matter and outlined the position as follows;

County Meath

There is an over eight's discharge vouchers scheme in place for CHO8 Meath since 2018. Children over 8 years of age attending the service who require optical follow up rather than medical follow up are discharged to the care of local opticians while still being eligible to avail of the voucher scheme towards the cost of glasses or lenses. Optical follow up refers to the supply of glasses and an annual eye test.

An Optician completes the eye test for a fee but claims the voucher amount on behalf of child via the HSE. This amount is in the region of €42.00 - €52.00 depending on the optician and lenses supplied. The scheme is mainly for children aged 8-12 years but children over 12-16 attending the service can still avail of the scheme if they are holders of a full medical card in their own right.

It should be noted that there is no eligibility under this scheme for children aged 8-12 years who are not attending the service unless they have a prescription from one of the Children's Hospitals and/or have been discharged by them.

County Louth

In CHO8 Louth there is not an over eight's scheme in place as this scheme is not a national scheme. However, in line with the primary eye care review, patients who require review glasses appointments will be seen by an Ophthalmologist or Optometrist until they reach age 12 or their next review they will be aged above 12. At this time those children who are a dependent of, or are a medical card holder in their own right, can avail of the test and glasses dispensed to be reimbursed via their local high street optician, by filling out a LOA/1 form.



CHO8 Louth is currently going through the recruitment process to employee 1.0 WTE Optometrist.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carole Broadbank'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Carole Broadbank
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation