



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

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

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28th June 2023

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

Re: PQ 29867/23: To ask the Minister for Health how many children have been referred out to optometrists under the over eights eye-care scheme; how many children were discharged from the scheme without further care in CHO8, (Louth and Meath); 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;

In regards to the over eights eye-care scheme:

1. Over the last four years since the COVID Pandemic, 1183 patients have been discharged to the Over Eight's Scheme to have optical follow up with their local opticians.

2020* - 648 patients seen and 400** were discharged

2021 - 2703 patients seen and 309 were discharged

2022 - 3268 patients seen and 348 were discharged

2023 to date - 1641 patients seen and 126 were discharged so far.

* COVID pandemic reduced and stopped the clinic's for seven months

** A review was carried out of all charts of patients that were due to be seen during the pandemic. Those that were suitable were discharged to opticians in order to prevent any delay in getting glasses from their local opticians that were still open.

2. Primary Care Services, Optical Department process applications under the HSE Primary Care Reimbursement Scheme for adults on the LOA-1 Form once every two years. Since Sept 2022 teenagers (aged 12-16) who are in receipt of a medical card are eligible for examination and dispensing by local optometrist, as per the above scheme.



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, appearing to be 'Dervila Eyres', written over a horizontal line.

Dervila Eyres
Acting Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation