



Róisín Shortall, T.D.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023

PQ: 21965/23

**To ask the Minister for Health if a person living with type 2 diabetes who does not have a GMS card or a GP-visit card will be seen free of charge when referred by a GP; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Róisín Shortall**

Dear Deputy Shortall,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 21965/23), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Unfortunately Doctor visits are only free of charge if the Client has either full Medical Card or GP Visit card eligibility. In cases where the client has type 2 diabetes, they should apply for a Long Term Illness card. Upon being found eligible for LTI scheme the client will get some drugs, medicines and medical appliances for free. Full information regarding the Long Term Illness Scheme, and how to apply, can be found at the following link: [Long-Term Illness Scheme - HSE.ie](https://www.hse.ie/eng/long-term-illness-scheme) .

Please note that Medical Card eligibility and GP Visit Card eligibility is primarily based on an assessment of means and is not granted on the basis of any particular medical condition, of itself, (except in limited cases). As part of the application process for Medical Card eligibility, applicants are invited to provide comprehensive information in relation to the costs associated with any illness and the care needs of the applicant and/or any dependants. In the event that an applicant's means are above the financial threshold for the grant of Medical Card eligibility, other factors outlined in the application in relation to the burden of illness are taken into consideration and eligibility may be granted where it is deemed appropriate to exercise discretion because of the undue burden on the applicant and /or any dependants. A client can be granted GP Visit Card eligibility where it is shown in the application there is a financial burden on the applicant as regards Doctor visits.

If a client wishes to apply for a Medical Card / GP Visit card, they should be advised to complete an application and include any and all medical information that may support their application.

The types of medical and or financial information we welcome include:

- Supporting documents that show any change in circumstances since applicant sent us their recent application.
- A letter or report from the relevant GP or medical consultant. The doctor should include information about client or their dependents' (if any) medical conditions, number of GP visits in the last 12 months, prescribed medicines and any other relevant information.
- Additional expenses in relation to medical conditions and any available supporting documents.

For more information, please visit our website at the below link, where you can also find a GP medical report form for discretionary medical card applications:

<https://www2.hse.ie/services/schemes-allowances/medical-cards/other-types-of-medical-card/discretionary-medical-cards/>

Yours sincerely,



Suzanne Doyle  
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service