



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
D08 W2A8.

Office of the Head of Operations,
Community Operations - Primary Care

Rm 243, Dr Steevens Hospital,
Steevens Lane, Dublin 8. D08 W2A8.

www.hse.ie
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)

T: 01 6352209/2682
E: community.primarycare@hse.ie

23rd April 2024

Deputy Ryan,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 15680/24 - To ask the Minister for Health if there are any plans to restore the chiropody visits for older medical card holders to four visits per year, as older people, especially diabetic patients, are experiencing mobility issues caused by the extended time between appointments; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Patricia Ryan

Dear Deputy Ryan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 15680/24) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Chiropody and Podiatry refer to professions that can treat or prevent foot disorders. Significant investment in Podiatry foot care services has been made through the Enhanced Community Care programme in recent years. The new Chronic Disease Hubs focus on Diabetic Foot Care within the primary care setting.

Community Podiatry services are available in all counties and I am not aware of services being reduced. The Podiatry services provided to individual patients is based on clinical need following initial assessment. In the Dublin area, Podiatry services are primarily delivered to patients by private providers whereby patients can apply for a chiropody card which allows them to have a number of annual appointments with a private provider.

The HSE is committed to delivering efficient high quality services to all eligible service users. In 2023, there were 64,396 patients seen by HSE Podiatry services in Primary Care.

I trust this is of assistance.

Seán McArt

General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operation