



Oifig an Stiúrthoir Cúnta,
Cúram Priomhúil Rochtain agus Comhthathú,
Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
D08 W2A8.

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5th February 2025

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

PQ 2634/25 To ask the Minister for Health to provide a breakdown of the chiropody services available in the public health system, including to those with a medical card; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Paul McAuliffe

Dear Deputy McAuliffe,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 2634/25) 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 have 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.

At present in Ireland, if a person has a foot problem they can:

- Attend their GP for a foot assessment and be referred to a HSE Podiatrist (fee of charge)
- Attend and pay for the services of a private podiatrist.

In County Dublin and County Wicklow primarily, there has been a long standing Chiropody Card Scheme, where qualified podiatrists can apply to be on a register as a HSE approved chiropodist/podiatrist. Once approved, patients can request to attend the private podiatrist clinic or request a domiciliary visit from a private podiatrist. Each person under this scheme, Medical Card or long term illness number (in certain areas), can avail of 3-6 treatments per year, but it is not free. The HSE pays the private podiatrist a set fee. The patients then top up the payment themselves, the fee is determined by the podiatrist.

The HSE is committed to delivering efficient high-quality services to all eligible service users. In 2024, there were 64,130 patients seen by HSE Podiatry services in Primary Care.

I trust this is of assistance.

Seán McArt
General Manager
Primary Care Access & Integration