



09 July 2025

Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**RE: PQ 35564/25**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients, by county, treated for foot ulcerations, which do not require a full or partial limb amputation in 2022, 2023 and 2024; the number of those patients who had diabetes; and if she will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy Mac Lochlainn,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead for Chronic Disease (NCAGL CD) on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

People with foot ulceration may be treated in a variety of setting across community and hospital depending on the cause of ulceration and underlying health conditions. Data on the total number of patients treated within the health service for foot ulceration is not currently available.

A diagnosis of type 1 or type 2 diabetes is associated with an increased risk of developing foot ulceration. People with a diagnosis of diabetes that develop a foot ulcer should be referred to their local hospital-based multidisciplinary diabetic foot team who will develop and lead the implementation of a management plan (HSE Diabetic Foot Model of Care, HSE, 2021<sup>1</sup>).

Most cases of diabetic foot ulceration are managed in an outpatient setting. Due to the lack of an electronic healthcare record, data on the number of patients managed for diabetic foot ulceration in the outpatient setting is currently not available.

While Hospital Inpatient Enquiry (HIPE) system can provide data on hospitalisations for diabetic foot ulceration and lower extremity amputation, this data must be interpreted with caution as these reports rely on the recording of a principal diagnosis of diabetes and therefore can miss out cases where diabetes is a contributory factor to a hospital inpatient episode.

In 2024, there were 938 episodes of hospitalisation (in 934 patients) with a principal diagnosis of type 1 with foot ulceration or type 2 diabetes with foot ulceration. Of these, 336 patients went on to have a lower extremity amputation during the same inpatient episode and 598 did not.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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**Anne Horgan**  
**General Manager**

**Reference:**

1. HSE Diabetic Foot Model of Care (2021)

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/diabetes/moc/diabetic-foot-model-of-care-2021.pdf>