



29 July 2025

Deputy Carol Nolan, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 39361/25

To ask the Minister for Health the supports available for children aged 9 years diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes; and if she will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Nolan,

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 Lead for Paediatric Diabetes on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

All children with type 1 diabetes receive hospital-based care. At diagnosis, children are admitted to hospital for assessment and where necessary, stabilisation. The child and family receive multidisciplinary team-based education as an inpatient, with follow-up care in the outpatient department ideally every 3 months. In addition, a child with diabetes should have a further contacts with members of the multidisciplinary team over the course of a year. A multidisciplinary team in terms of diabetes includes specialist nursing, dietetic, psychology and social work.

The HSE Model of Care for All Children and Young People with Type 1 Diabetes (2015)¹ defines appropriate staff to patient ratios for each of the multidisciplinary team roles. Children with diabetes have access to diabetes nursing and dietetic support. Access to psychology for some centres is challenging and work is ongoing to address this deficit.

Children have universal access to continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) and increasingly have access to insulin pump therapy. The most recently available data collected by the National Clinical Programme in May 2024 showed that nationally 52% of children with type 1 diabetes were on insulin pump therapy, however in some services this was as high as 70-80%. Due to the commitment of Paediatric Diabetes Services throughout the country, the proportion of children receiving insulin pump therapy is increasing year on year and more and more children are commencing insulin pump therapy at an earlier stage in their diabetes journey to reduce their risk of long-term complications.

There is also increased support for children with type 1 diabetes related to the publication of "Meeting the care needs of Primary School children with Type 1 diabetes during school hours"² where greater guidance is provided to schools and a tool to estimate the degree of additional non-teaching support required by each child. The document also has a template for a personal pupil plan, related to the management of their diabetes in school. Individual diabetes services also provide practical training to teachers and Special Needs Assistances (SNAs) who will have children with diabetes under their care during the school year.

All children with Type 1 diabetes are entitled to a long-term illness (LTI) card. This scheme is not means tested. This card, issued by the HSE entitles the child or adult to diabetes medications such as insulin and medications for related conditions in addition to needles, blood glucose test strips and where applicable, insulin pump consumables free of charge and without incurring dispensing fees.

Children may also be eligible for a medical card or a GP visit card depending on circumstances.



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

Anne Horgan
General Manager

References:

1. <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/clinical-strategy-and-programmes/moc-young-people-with-type-1-diabetes.pdf>
2. <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/hcps/paediatrics-neonatology/resources/meeting-care-needs-primary-school-children-with-diabetes1.pdf>