



14th April, 2025

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

RE: PQ 14342/25

To ask the Minister for Health the HSE clinical definition of type 1 diabetes; and the healthcare professional that is ultimately responsible for making the clinical decision on whether a patient has type 1 diabetes

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, Chronic Disease, (NCAGL CD), on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

The total number of people living with diabetes in Ireland is estimated to be 225,840. People with type 1 diabetes account for approximately 20,000 of the total diabetes population in Ireland i.e. 10-15% of the population of people living with diabetes. Type 2 diabetes is the more common form of diabetes.

People with type 1 diabetes initially present to their GP, emergency department or other entry point of the healthcare services with symptoms suggestive of type 1 diabetes such as excessive thirst, frequent urination, weight loss or the urgent presentation known as diabetic ketoacidosis. They require rapid secondary care review with diagnosis of type 1 diabetes being confirmed at secondary care level by the diabetes team and ongoing management (including insulin therapy) being provided at secondary care level . Most people with new type 1 diabetes present in this manner.

There is a further, rarer form of diabetes known as latent autoimmune diabetes in adults (LADA). This group often present in adulthood with symptoms suggestive of type 2 diabetes, but over time their symptoms change and then antibodies confirm Type 1 diabetes, revealing their true diagnosis and need for specialist input in secondary care including insulin treatment and associated monitoring requirements. This diagnosis is also made at secondary care level.

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