



Office of the Head of Primary Care
Services
Community Health Organisation
Midlands Louth Meath

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11th June 2025

Deputy Nolan
Leinster House
Kildare St.
Dublin 2

Re: PQ21851/25

Dear Deputy Nolan

I acknowledge receipt of your representation PQ/21851/25: To ask the Minister for Health the reason chiropody services in general practice for people with diabetes have been discontinued; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

The Midlands Diabetes Structured Care Programme was established in the Midlands Area Laois, Offaly, Longford and Westmeath in 1998 as a pilot project which continued until 2024. The Service was offered to both public and private patients with Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes. 37 GMS GPs participated in the programme and it was delivered by a multidisciplinary team which consist of a GP Lead Clinical Nurse Specialist Diabetes Integrated Care, Practice Nurses and Podiatry Services. The Programme was linked to Diabetes services at Midland Regional Hospital Mullingar, Portiuncula Hospital Ballinasloe and vascular services at Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore.

HSE Circular NCO-04-2020 was issued to all General Practitioners on the 13th January 2020 detailing the arrangements around the introduction of Chronic Disease Management Programme (CDM) which was due to commence in January 2020. In line with the circular all new and existing GMS patients were to be transitioned to the CDM Programme which included patients that were registered with the Hearthwatch Programme and the Diabetic Structured Care Programme.

In December 2024 registered GPs were advised by the HSE that the Hearthwatch Programme would cease from the 31st December 2024, in line with this decision the GP Lead for the Diabetic Structured Care Programme wrote to the participating GP s in the Diabetic Structured Care Programme advising them that the Diabetic Structured Care Programme would cease in line with the Hearthwatch Programme from the 1st January 2025.

GMS patients with a medical card or doctor visit card should by now be registered with CDM which offers structured diabetes care under the framework. For private patients, they should continue to receive appropriate diabetes care within their GP practice until such times that they become eligible for a medical card or doctor visit card. Podiatry services remain available to patients that are registered under the Chronic Disease Management Programme.



If you have any further queries, please contact me

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Ruane
Head of Primary Care Services
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation