



Deputy Barry Ward
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

24th October 2025

Ref: PQ 54202/25

To ask the Minister for Health if her attention has been drawn to concerns related to the provision of foot care for the elderly (details supplied); the actions she will take to address these concerns; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ward,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I can confirm that in HSE Dublin South and Wicklow under the Chronic Disease management clinical care diabetes program, there are currently two whole time equivalent staff, one Podiatry Manager in Charge III and one Clinical specialist, we do not have any podiatry posts in the community network areas.

However, we offer the Chiropody Scheme in this area. This scheme is accessed through an application form completed by the patient's GP, Public Health Nurse, or other relevant Health Practitioner. Once approved, patients may choose to attend a private podiatry clinic or request a domiciliary visit from a private podiatrist.

Under this scheme, eligible individuals such as Medical Card holders can typically avail of three to six treatments per year. The number of treatments offered is dependent on medical need. However, the service is not free. The HSE pays the private podiatrist a set fee, the rate being established by the Department of Health which is below the full cost of an appointment, and patients are required to pay a top-up fee to cover the difference. The amount of this top-up fee is determined by the individual podiatrist. Top up fees can range from €15 to €50.

We acknowledge this service is of great importance to the older population's overall health and wellbeing most specifically in the frail older person population. The HSE have raised concerns in relation to resourcing in this area and separately raised the importance of future recruitment to Senior Management.

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,

Sinead Kilbride
General Manager, Wicklow, Primary Care