



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
D08 W2A8.

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7th December 2022

Deputy Michael Lowry,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 58211/22 – To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to an issue in Tipperary CHO3 and CHO5, in which diabetes-related lower limb amputations and in-patient foot ulceration treatment have increased significantly between 2020 and 2021 (details supplied); if he will provide an update on the number of permanent full-time podiatry posts in CHO3 and CHO5; the number of posts that remain unfilled in CHO3 and CHO5; if his attention has been drawn to reports that a shortage of podiatrists in these areas is causing extensive waiting lists for community-based therapy and is resulting in no local referral pathways for GPs, which eventually leads to hospitalisation if left untreated; the measures being taken to recruit podiatrists in these CHO areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Michael Lowry

Dear Deputy Lowry,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 58221/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Significant investment in Podiatry foot care services has been made through the Enhanced Community Care programme in the last 12 months. The new Chronic Disease Hub posts will focus on Diabetic Foot Care and will allow the new Network Podiatry Posts to focus on the foot care needs of the general and older population in the Community Healthcare, including that of CHO3 and CHO5.

Any client with foot care needs should be referred into their local Primary Care Network service by their GP or public health nurse to get access to local services. If they are diabetic patients, the local doctors will be aware of the referral pathways into Hub services.

The most recent Workforce Reporting (Primary Care) Employment Report (including Podiatrists) for each CHO can be found as follows:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/workforce-reporting/workforce-intelligence-by-community-healthcare-organisation.html>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt

General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations