



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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

Office of the Head of Operations,
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8th February, 2024

Deputy Smith,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 48678/23 To ask the Minister for Health what changes have been made to the system for reimbursing dispensing opticians for vouchers issued by the HSE for the glasses of children; if he will provide a list of the type of payments available for each type of glasses or prescription; what rules apply; up until what age payments are made; and if he will make a statement on the matter.
- Duncan Smith

Dear Deputy Smith,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 48678/23) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE continues to reimburse dispensing opticians via the Primary Care Reimbursement Service for spectacles and optical devices prescribed by ophthalmologists to children (up to age 12). Each child is entitled to the supply of one pair of contract spectacles every two years from the date of initial prescription or change of prescription. In the case of breakages or loss, a maximum of two additional pairs of spectacles may be provided within 12 months from the date of the initial prescription or the date of the last prescription change.

Teenagers aged 12-16 years who are dependants of Medical Card Holders or who are medical card holders in their own right are entitled to an eye examination and spectacles once every two years if required. In the case of loss or damage, one additional pair may be provided free of charge in any period of 12 months.

In addition to the above, the nine Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs) are allocated budgets to fund services in their area which may contribute towards the cost of specialised lens in certain circumstances, usually as advised by an Ophthalmic Consultant and based on clinical need.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt

General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations