



**Ceann Seirbhíse, Cúraim Príomhúil**  
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Cabhán Dún na nGall  
Liatroim Muineachán, Sligeach  
An Clochar, Sráid an Choláiste, Béal Átha  
Seanaidh, Co Dhun na nGall, F94 TPX4

**Head of Service, Primary Care**  
Community Healthcare Cavan Donegal  
Leitrim Monaghan Sligo  
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13<sup>th</sup> February, 2024

Duncan Smith T.D.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref. 50608/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health the current eye care services available to children aged eight years of age and over in CHO1.**

Dear Deputy Smith

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 have examined the matter and the following outlines the position in Community Healthcare Cavan Donegal Leitrim Monaghan and Sligo.

Under the Community Ophthalmic Services *Scheme (HBCOSS)*, children aged twelve to sixteen years, who have full medical card eligibility, 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 twelve month period.

Optometrists can submit an Optical Claims Form (LOA-2) to the Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS), in order to be reimbursed for expenses they have incurred. An Optical Claims Form must be accompanied by a completed Summary of Claims Certificate. Optometrists should submit their Optical Claim Forms to;  
The Primary Care Reimbursement Service,  
P.O. Box 7103,  
Finglas, Dublin 11,  
D11 PXT0

In the Sligo Leitrim area, the Optical Claims form can be obtained from the PCRS Optical Unit, HSE Primary Care, Leitrim Road, Carrick on Shannon.

Sligo Leitrim Primary Care Community Ophthalmology Service has established the Over 9's Scheme in order to reduce waiting lists. Patients aged between nine and twelve, unless stated otherwise due to medical reasons, will be discharged to a local optician for their appointments. The optician can then fill in the reimbursement form for the cost of the eye test and the LOA-2 forms to cover the glasses.

The Primary Care Community Ophthalmology Service in Sligo Leitrim also operates Combined Orthoptist and Optometrist Led (COOL) clinics, which eliminate the need for patients to attend two appointments in two different clinics. Instead, they attend both the orthoptist and optometrist on the same day. This also reduces waiting times for appointments in both optometrist only and orthoptist only clinics.



Additional time is reserved for each appointment in Additional Needs Clinics (ANCs), in order to accommodate children with additional needs and make the clinical experience as enjoyable as possible for the children.

In County Donegal, children aged eight years and over attend optometrist and orthoptist appointments in St. Conal's Hospital, until they finish their primary school education.

If there are concerns regarding a child, they will continue to be reviewed until the age of sixteen. A Consultant Ophthalmologist operates a monthly clinic to review such cases.

In the Cavan Monaghan area, children aged eight years and over who are identified as requiring an eyesight assessment, either through the school health screening by the Schools Public Health Nurse, their GP or their Paediatrician, can be referred to the Cavan Monaghan Ophthalmology clinic. Based on the referral, the Consultant Ophthalmologist will allocate the referral to either the Orthoptist, Optometrist or Consultant.

Kindly note this response was held due to Fórsa Industrial Action which has now been lifted.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mandy Doyle'.

**Mandy Doyle**  
**Head Of Service Primary Care CHO1**

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**Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo, Leitrim & Donegal.**