



Oifig an Stiúrthoir Cúnta,
Cúram Priomhúil Rochtain agus Comhthathú,

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

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30th July 2024

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

PQ 32517/24 To ask the Minister for Health if it is standard practice for a chiropodist to charge a fee for appointments for medical card holders; if so, if he will consider requesting that the fee be removed (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. *Details supplied:* My office has been contacted by a pensioner who has reported that the chiropodist in the local community centre is charging 10 euro per visit when a person has a medical card.

- Paul Murphy

Dear Deputy Murphy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 32517/24) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Significant investment in Podiatry foot care services have been made through the Enhanced Community Care programme over the last two years. The new Chronic Disease Hub posts focus on Diabetic Foot Care and allow the Network Podiatry Posts to focus on the foot care needs of the general and older population in the Community. In 2023, there were 64,396 patients seen by HSE Podiatry services in Primary Care.

As well as the new and existing direct podiatry services, in County Dublin and County Wicklow primarily, where service deficits exist, there has been a long standing Chiropody Card Scheme, where qualified podiatrists can apply to be on a register as a HSE approved chiropodist/podiatrist to increase access to foot care services. In this instance the HSE pays the private podiatrist a fixed fee. The patients then top-up the payment themselves and the fee is determined by the podiatrist. The chiropody card allows individuals to have 3-6 appointments annually with a private provider. The HSE does not charge clients for community podiatry services.

I trust this is of assistance.

Seán McArt
General Manager
Primary Care Access & Integration