



24th May 2024

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

PQ 20969/24 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of podiatry appointments delivered, by CHO area, in the years 2021, 2022 and 2023; the number of podiatry appointments delivered, by CHO area, to people with diabetes; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Roisin Shortall

Dear Deputy Shortall,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 20969/24) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Chiropody and Podiatry refer to professions that can treat or prevent foot disorders and services are available within the primary care setting. The Podiatry services provided to individual patients is based on clinical need following initial assessment. In the Dublin area (CHOs 6,7&9), Podiatry services are primarily delivered to patients by private providers whereby patients can apply for a chiropody card which allows them to have a number of annual appointments with a private provider.

In the context of podiatry services for Diabetes patients, significant investment has been made in recent years through the Enhanced Community Care Programme via Chronic Disease Hubs. In 2023, Podiatrists within the Diabetes Care Programme saw 7,700 patients and work continues to further develop and enhance these hubs in order to expand the level of service being offered into other areas – see *table 1*

Number of Diabetes patients seen by the Diabetes Care Programme Podiatrist			
CHO area	Full year 2021	Full year 2022	Full year 2023
1	0	0	0
2	0	0	0
3	663	495	1,254
4	533	124	117
5	0	0	809
6	0	0	0
7	0	0	0
8	80	1,399	2,065
9	1,012	2,147	3,455
Total	2,288	4,165	7,700



The HSE is committed to delivering efficient high quality services to all eligible service users. In 2023, there were 64,860 patients seen by HSE Podiatry services within Primary Care – see *Table 2*.

Table 2

CHO area	Total Number of Podiatry patients seen		
	Full year 2021	Full year 2022	Full year 2023
1	8,214	14,558	10,524
2	11,450	15,291	14,925
3	6,278	8,115	10,009
4	12,832	16,914	14,551
5	1,355	2,303	2,360
6	0	485	537
7	0	0	0
8	3,537	6,932	8,478
9	1,046	2,187	3,476
Total	44,712	66,785	64,860

I trust this is of assistance.

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operation