



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta
Clár Cúraim Pobail Feabhsaithe &
Conarthaí Príomhchúraim
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte

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Deputy Roisin Shortall
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

9th July 2024

PQ Number 20974/24

To ask the Minister for Health how many HSE ECC specialist ambulatory care hub diabetes services are actively seeing people with Type 2 diabetes; if further hubs will open this year; how many more are planned to open in the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

I refer to your parliamentary question, which was passed to the HSE for response.

In line with Sláintecare, the Enhanced Community Care Programme (ECC) objective is to deliver increased levels of health care with service delivery reoriented towards general practice, primary care and community-based services. The focus is on implementing an end-to-end care pathway that care for people at home and over time prevent referrals and admissions to acute hospitals where it is safe and appropriate to do so, and enable a “home first” approach.

Community Specialist Teams (Hubs)

The work that has been undertaken by the Integrated Care Programme for Chronic Disease over recent years, has shown that improved outcomes can be achieved particularly for those clients with chronic disease, through a model of care that allows the specialist multidisciplinary team engage and interact with services at Community Healthcare Network (CHN) level, in their diagnosis and on-going care.

Community Specialist Teams for Chronic Disease support CHNs and GPs to respond to the specialist needs of these cohorts of the population, bridging and linking the care pathways between acute and community services with a view to improving access to and egress from acute hospital services.

The Community Specialist Teams service a population on average of 150,000 equating on average to 3 CHNs. Ideally, the teams are co-located together in ‘hubs’ located in or adjacent to Primary Care Centres reflecting a shift in focus away from the acute hospital towards general practice, and a primary care and community-based service model.

In response to your query regarding “*how many HSE ECC specialist ambulatory care hub diabetes services are actively seeing people with Type 2 diabetes; if further hubs will open this year; how many more are planned to open in the future*”, please see below details: -

- Currently there are **26** x Chronic Disease Community Specialist Teams (CST) **operational** across the country. The operationalising of the remaining teams this year is dependent on the recruitment of staff to operationalise the services.
- Each of the 26 Chronic Disease Community Specialist Teams are delivering some level of service to patients with Type 2 Diabetes based on the staffing that have been recruited to the CST at this time.



- Where CST's have a full staff compliment a full range of services is being provided including access to specialist clinical opinion from Integrated Care Consultant, access to Nurse-led clinics, podiatry services and diabetes education programmes.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'G. Crowley', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Geraldine Crowley,
Assistant National Director,
Enhanced Community Care Programme &
Primary Care Contracts**