

Collaborative Working Executive Summary

A Collaborative Working Project between Clonskeagh Integrated Healthcare Area Dublin South and Wicklow, Health Service Executive, Dublin South and East and Grünenthal Limited.

<p>Name of the Project:</p>	<p>Implementation of a dedicated diabetic peripheral neuropathy clinic for people living within the catchment area of Integrated Healthcare Area Dublin South and Wicklow.</p>
<p>Project Overview:</p>	<p>Chronic Disease community Specialist Team (CD-CSDT) Clonskeagh seek to work with Grünenthal Limited to optimise the care of the local population through the pooling of experience, skills, and resources to improve the standard of care and patient outcomes through provision of a diabetic peripheral neuropathy service which is patient-centred, holistic, proactive, and preventative in its approach. The insights and outcomes gleaned through this project will inform a business case to the local Health Service Executive, Dublin South and East that articulates a future service sustainability case and build a best practice exemplar for a new model of care for pain optimisation and service improvement within an intermediary care hub setting, which provides health inequality insights for future adoption across the HSE.</p> <p>Diabetes is one of the leading causes of peripheral neuropathy [1]. Peripheral neuropathies present with painful or painless symptoms and many patients experiencing both. Painful diabetic peripheral neuropathy (PDPN) is a common type of diabetic neuropathy with severe pain affecting up to 30% of the cohort of patients that suffer with diabetic peripheral neuropathy [2]. Painful diabetic peripheral neuropathy is characterised by insidious onset of pain with shooting, burning, or aching which typically responds poorly to conventional treatments. The condition can be severe, chronic, and disabling, which can lead to substantial functional, psychological, and social limitations. Furthermore, (PDPN) is associated with depression, anxiety, sleep disorders, higher healthcare costs, productivity losses and impacts on patients’ quality of life. [3], [4]. Despite this backdrop of complex impacts, (PDPN) is a widely underdiagnosed and undertreated condition, with a consequent delay in management [5], [6].</p> <p>There is currently no national diabetes registry available in Ireland, therefore, prevalence of diabetes and associated complications are based on estimates. This in turn has led to a lack of investment and resources in relation to the management of PDPN [7]. Preliminary audits of a local secondary care diabetes database have identified approximately 10% of patients attending secondary care diabetes services have diagnosed peripheral neuropathy [8]. Currently, there are no structured management pathways for this cohort of patients [9].</p> <p>The aim of this project is to pilot the introduction of a PDPN clinic within an integrated specialist ambulatory care hub. Clonskeagh to improve the overall standard of care and patient outcomes through provision of a service which is person-centred, holistic, proactive, and preventative in the approach. Grünenthal Limited offers no guarantee of any future funding to Chronic Disease Community Specialist Team (CDCSDT) Clonskeagh Integrated Healthcare Area Dublin South and Wicklow, Health Service Executive beyond the scope of this pilot project.</p>
<p>Project Purpose/Project Objectives:</p>	<p>This collaborative working project seeks to address this unmet provision through the design and implementation of 2 key service initiatives which include.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a pain optimisation service model as proof-of-concept/service improvement pilot ‘best practice’ example within the South Dublin Intermediary Hub area and the Health Service Executive, Dublin. • Delivery of a business case to ensure pilot project incorporated into the Integrated Care Hub and Health Service Executive Dublin as an exemplar pain optimisation pathway including the development of a blueprint for patient-focused service, in line with the local health system priorities. <p>The project will support 4 key service improvement initiatives which comprise:</p> <p>1.Optimising care for those living with diabetes and neuropathic pain. This will be undertaken via an integrated care hub setting.</p>

	<p>2.Increasing clinical capacity and capability of the Integrated Care Hub Clonskeagh to optimise pain management for patients who have been diagnosed with diabetes and neuropathy, creating a ‘care path’ protocol for diabetes and neuropathy patients through a Chronic Disease Community Specialist Team (CD-CSDT) approach.</p> <p>3.Creating an educational package for healthcare professionals focusing on neuropathic pain management. This program will raise awareness and enhance healthcare professional understanding of neuropathic pain and, optimise inter and intra-centre experience to improve pain management practices. This initiative will provide practical tools to support the patient journey effectively.</p> <p>4.Conducting in-depth assessments of the unique needs and challenges faced by local populations within the diabetes and neuropathic pain context. These insights will inform targeted interventions to ensure equitable access to pain management resources and improved outcomes for patients.</p>
<p>Patient, Healthcare Organisation and Grünenthal Limited Benefits:</p>	<p>Expected Patient Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More patients receiving evidence-based care and improved experience of healthcare system. ▪ Fewer patients lost to follow up. ▪ Enhanced efficiencies in clinic management of patients with diabetes and neuropathy through deployment of an intermediary care hub setting, bring care closer to home. ▪ Scalability of project insights to allow for business case development to improve services locally, regionally, and nationally. <p>Expected Healthcare Organisation Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Understand the impact and effectiveness of deploying a local diabetes and neuropathy service within an intermediary care setting. ▪ Understand the unmet need of diabetic and neuropathy patients under the local health team care and how that correlates to the local population to inform future business cases and research. ▪ Sustainable and evidence-based service improvements through the business case for continued support <p>Benefits to Grünenthal Limited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grünenthal Limited will build reputational gains from working collaboratively with Clonskeagh Integrated Healthcare Area, Dublin South and Wicklow, Health Service Executive, Dublin South and East. ▪ Grünenthal Limited would gain the opportunity to collaborate on a new model of care in diabetes and neuropathy informing an exemplar of best practice which can be shared across the Irish health system. ▪ Expansion of the eligible patient population.
<p>Project Stakeholders:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clonskeagh Integrated Healthcare Area Dublin South and Wicklow ▪ Health Service Executive, Dublin South and East ▪ Grünenthal Limited.
<p>Timelines:</p>	<p>The project is due to commence in February 2025 and will run as an 18-month project. This comprises a 12-month duration to run the project with a further 6 months allocated for a full project evaluation. The project is due to complete in July 2026.</p>
<p>Agreed Arrangements:</p>	<p>Clonskeagh Chronic Disease Community Specialist Diabetes Team, Clonskeagh Integrated Healthcare Area Dublin South and Wicklow will provide €61,884.90 of resourcing to support the project. Grünenthal Limited will provide €31,803.20 of resourcing to support the project. The total contribution of both parties pooling of skills, experience and resources equates to €93,688.10.</p>
<p>References:</p>	<p>1. NHS Causes Peripheral Neuropathy. Available: www.nhs.uk. [Accessed online: October 2024].</p>

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9. Day, A. J. (2023). Updates in Management of Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy. PROCEEDINGS OF UCLA HEALTH, 27. Retrieved from Proceedings of UCLA Health.

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