PQ34907, 15  

28th October 2015

Dear Deputy Smith,

The HSE has been asked to respond directly to you regarding the below query;

To ask the Minister for Health the proposals he has to ensure that all Medical Card holders, irrespective of their location, are provided with free dental benefit if they need to access dental treatment in the Dental Hospital; if this provision is already in place for Medical Card holders in the Dublin/Wicklow area; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

There are two Dental Hospitals, namely Cork Dental Hospital and Dublin Dental Hospital.

**Medical Card holders can access routine dental care through the Dental Treatment Services Scheme from private dental practitioners. The Dental Hospitals do not participate in the Dental Treatment Services Scheme.**

However, the HSE has a Service Level Agreement with the Dental Hospitals for specialist oral health services for medical card patients. There are established referral pathways for these services in the Dental Hospitals through the local HSE dental service.

**Medical Card holders can also access specialist oral surgery/oral medicine services from the HSE Consultant led Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery team.**

Yours sincerely,

Dympna Kavanagh
Assistant National Director-Oral Health.
BDS (Hons) FDS FDS(DPH) MSc(Hons)PhD DDPH