



18 November 2019

Deputy Michael Healy-Rae
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 44836/19: To ask the Minister for Health the amount dentists charge medical card patients for extractions (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Details supplied: Minister could you please explain the practice of Dentists charging €50 to customers for extractions who are in a possession of a full medical card.

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Questions which have been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

Under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS) Dentists who have a contract with the Health Services executive (HSE) can carry out dental treatment on patients who have a medical card. If someone is over 16 years and has a current medical card then that person is entitled to free dental treatment from any of the Dentists on the DTSS list. This list is available at local HSE Dental clinics.

In any one calendar year entitlement includes:

- A Dental examination including any necessary x rays
- Eligible patients are entitled to emergency treatment only, treatment includes:
 - Two restorations (fillings) as part of emergency treatment
 - Extractions (as many as necessary)
 - Root canal treatment (restricted to front teeth only)
 - Denture repairs
 - Dentures (need approval in emergency circumstance)

Patients who are deemed Exceptional or High Risk have an expanded range of treatments available to them. Access to these treatments requires approval by the HSE of an application from the patient's dentist.

This includes (for Exceptional /High Risk)

- Scale and polish (cleaning)
- Prolonged Periodontal Treatment
- More than two restorations (fillings) in a calendar year

There is no provision in the DTSS contract between dental contractors and the HSE that allows contractor charge a patient for a treatment item that is available under the scheme.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but if you require further clarification please do not hesitate to

Yours Sincerely,



Joseph Green
AND, National Oral Health Lead - Operations