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**Deputy James Browne
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 40192/19

To ask the Minister for Health the reason medical card cover does not cover operations conducted by periodontists; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Browne,

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

Medical Card holders can access dental services through the Dental Treatment Services Scheme. Treatment under the scheme is provided by general dental practitioners that hold contracts with the HSE. A range of treatments is available directly from a dentist without recourse to the HSE. However, more complex treatment items require prior approval from the HSE. Periodontal treatment is available under the scheme for patients that are considered to be in High Risk or exceptional categories. In those cases, the dentist seeks the approval of the local Principal Dental Surgeon.

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

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Green'.

**Joseph Green
AND, National Oral Health Lead - Operations**