



Cúram Sláinte
Phobail, Iarthar
ag freastal ar Ghailímh,
Maigheo agus Ros Comáin

Community
Healthcare West
serving Galway, Mayo
and Roscommon

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20th November 2020

Mr. Michael Ring, T.D.,
Constituency Office,
Quay Street,
Westport,
Co. Mayo,
F82 FT96.

PQ 35472/20

To ask the Minister for Health the actions that will be taken to decrease waiting times for a service (details supplied) in County Mayo - Michael Ring.

Dear Deputy Ring,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Since Covid-19 arrived in March and during the most severe restrictions, the Dental Service in Mayo has always maintained an emergency service which is available to all eligible children. In the last year we were on target to see 6th class and 2nd class within the academic year however the arrival of Covid-19 greatly hampered that progress. The Dental Service affectively closed all except one clinic from March until July and this has resulted in very little progress on school assessments.

A number of dental services have encountered difficulties in resuming elective services due to continued redeployment, unavailability of some clinical facilities, and staff being on leave. The implementation of social distancing and additional IPC measures has affected the throughput of patients. In light of these challenges, it was necessary to prioritise patient groups.

In setting out these priorities, National Oral Health Office recognised that each Principal Dental Surgeon, in consultation with management, may have to prioritise other patient groups due to service delays.

1. Maintain a commitment to urgent/emergency treatment for the relief of pain, infection, and the sequelae of trauma.
2. Review records of Special Care patients that had treatment interrupted and those due to be recalled, using a treatment risk assessment based on the specific needs of each patient versus the impact of deferral of operative care.

Make contact with these patients/carers who are on recall lists, inform them about available support and ensure communication is kept open.

3. The existing guidance from National Oral Health Office in relation to paediatric and special care dental GA remains in place.

Ensure that the appropriate follow up treatment/review has been provided to those patients who attended for emergency care since March 2020.

The Dental Service in Mayo has undergone many changes as a result of this recent pandemic and we have followed the direction for prioritising as outlined above.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely



Frank Murphy
Head of Primary Care
Community Healthcare West