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Deputy Martin Browne
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 52127/21: To ask the Minister for Health the process involved in identifying the patients who qualify to be transferred from the HSE to private providers under the framework type agreement 3983 for orthodontic treatment; and the way patients can secure such a transfer given the lengthy waiting lists.

Dear Deputy Browne,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.


The HSE Orthodontic Service is provided in Regional Orthodontic Departments. Access to treatment with the HSE Orthodontic Service is limited to those children with the most severe and complex orthodontic treatment needs. Referral for orthodontic assessment is usually made in 6th Class. The Modified Index of Treatment Needs (Modified IOTN) system is used in all regions to determine if a child will be accepted for treatment. There are a number of categories within the Modified IOTN system, and these are used to prioritise care, children whose treatment need is assessed as being in Grade 4 or Grade 5 of the Index are offered treatment with the HSE.

A waiting list initiative (Framework Type Agreement 3983) to deal with long waiting times for access to orthodontic treatment commenced in 2016. Under Framework type agreement 3983, and its successor agreement 11317, patients whose malocclusions are assessed as being Grade 4 of the modified IOTN are offered the opportunity to transfer to private service providers for treatment.

The process followed is that the Regional Orthodontic Departments where waiting lists are held are asked to identify those patients waiting over four years for routine orthodontic treatment, whose malocclusions are assessed as being Grade 4 of the modified IOTN. The initiative is managed centrally by the HSE. Those patients over 4 years who are waiting the longest are contacted first and invited to transfer from the HSE to a private service provider.

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

Yours Sincerely,



Joseph Green
AND, National Oral Health Lead - Operations