



17 September 2021

**Deputy Jackie Cahill
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

43864/21: To ask the Minister for Health the criteria that must be met for a medical card to cover the cost of dentures; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Cahill,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above question, which you submitted to the Minister for 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:
 - o Two restorations (fillings) as part of emergency treatment
 - o Extractions (as many as necessary)
 - o Root canal treatment (restricted to front teeth only)
 - o Denture repairs

The provision of dentures requires approval by the HSE in emergency circumstances on application from the patient's dentist. Dentures are generally approved once in a five year period.

If a patient has difficulty accessing such treatment through the DTSS he/she should contact their local HSE dental service.

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**