



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

Community
Healthcare West
serving Galway, Mayo
and Roscommon

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17th February 2022

Deputy Rose Conway-Walsh T.D.
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 6530/22

To ask the Minister for Health the controls or checks that are in place to ensure that dentists in the dental treatment services scheme are accepting new medical card patients; the number of dentists in County Mayo who are currently accepting new medical card patients; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Conway-Walsh,

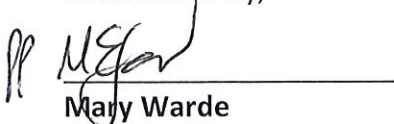
The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Our information is that there are 20 Dentists in the county (12 practices) who hold DTSS contracts and that all are advising that they are at capacity and unable to take on new patients at this time. In extreme emergency, cases have been treated in the HSE clinics. However, the Public Dental Service is primarily a children's service and for special care children and adults. It is not resourced to treat this cohort of adults for full courses of treatment. The HSE Dental Service is also struggling to see the large volume of children awaiting assessment and treatment.

Nationally, many dentists have left the scheme and negotiations are taking place between various Dental Representative bodies, Department of Health and the HSE. This results in many eligible medical card holders finding it difficult to source a dentist. The online applications for treatment for DTSS patients continues as does the paper based approvals which indicates patients are being seen by contractors.

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

Yours sincerely,



Mary Warde
Head of Primary Care Services
Community Healthcare West