



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

**Community
Healthcare West**
serving Galway, Mayo
and Roscommon

Head of Primary Care Services
Community Healthcare West, St. Mary's Headquarters,
Castlebar, Co. Mayo, F23 HP58.
Tel: 094 9049064 / 094 9049069

Ceannasaí na Seirbhísí Bunchúraim
Cúram Sláinte Phobail, Iarthar, Ceanncheathrú N. Muire,
Caisleán an Bharraigh, Co. Mhaigh Eo, F23 HP58.
T: 094 9049064 / 094 9049069

8th June 2022

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

PQ 28787/22

To ask the Minister for Health the pathway for a medical card patient to extensive dental treatment under sedation, who cannot access dental care due to a lack of dentists in County Mayo treating 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.

Sedation is not covered by the medical card scheme, this is unrelated to the availability of Dentists on the Dental Treatment Service Scheme (DTSS). Sedation is a service which is not generally available at many General Dental Surgeons practices as they may not have the required training, equipment or facilities to provide sedation in their practices.

For medical card holders who require extractions that are not possible to be completed locally for various reasons by their own DTSS Dentist, they can be referred to an Oral Surgeon/Oral and Maxillofacial Department. However, the decision to carry out the work under sedation is for the clinician to decide, and is based on an assessment of the patient and treatment involved.

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

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Egan
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Mary Warde
Head of Primary Care Services
Community Healthcare West