



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the Head of Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare
HSE Offices, Lacken
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30th May 2022

Ms. Verona Murphy TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 28024/22

To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 755 of 1 March and 641 of 17 May 2022, if he will clearly provide the details of the specific locations in County Wexford in which the HSE public dental service is providing emergency cover as detailed in the responses for adult medical card patients unable to access a service from their local dentist; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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

I have reviewed the matter and the following outlines the current position.

Since 1994, the provision of dental treatment to adults with medical cards has been contracted out to General Dental Practitioners, under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS). Persons with medical card eligibility and other eligible persons can access dental treatment through the DTSS. All medical card holders are entitled to specific dental treatments: dental examination, two fillings in each calendar year, extractions as necessary.

This DTSS list is updated regularly following our annual request for documentation for current registration. Unfortunately there is no pathway for the HSE to ensure Dentists accept medical cardholders as patients. The Primary Care Unit can provide a list of current dentists in Co. Wexford who are signed up to the DTSS scheme if requested.

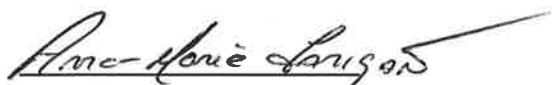
Over the past year in the South East Community Healthcare area, a number of dentists have withdrawn from the DTSS Scheme, the relevant Principal Dental Surgeon and the Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) are advised of all exits. The recent increase in fees paid to dentists under the scheme may help to alleviate this situation.

The HSE Children's/Special Needs Dental Service is not resourced to provide treatment to adults and does not have the capacity to do so. In relation to children's services, if any child is experiencing pain,

sepsis or trauma they can access the emergency dental service. This service is accessed through Grogan's Road, Wexford, Monday to Friday by phoning (053) 9114297. The child is triaged and offered an appointment if necessary. Only the presenting emergency complaint is managed at this clinic. A full dental examination and full course of treatment is not available through the emergency clinic.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Marie Lanigan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anna Marie Lanigan
Head of Service-Primary Care
Assistant National Director
South East Community Healthcare