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Mr. Paul Kehoe TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 28403/23

To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a list of the dentists in County Wexford providing services to medical card holders under the dental treatment services scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Kehoe,

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 examined the matter and the following response outlines the current position.

Persons with medical card eligibility and other eligible persons can access dental treatment through the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS). All medical card holders are entitled to specific dental treatments: dental examination, two fillings in each calendar year, extractions as necessary.

Currently the number of dentists that hold contracts for the DTSS in Co. Wexford is 15 within 9 practices. I am attaching the updated list of participating dentists in the DTSS Scheme in Wexford for your convenience. Any queries on same can be directed to the Primary Care Unit in Lacken, Kilkenny on 056 7784234 who will provide assistance in this regard.


Unfortunately there is no pathway for the HSE to ensure Dentists accept medical cardholders as patients. The HSE issues the contracts and requests yearly registration documentation but the HSE cannot direct a dentist to offer an appointment to a medical card patient. It is a matter for the individual dentist to decide the clinical priority of patients reviewed within their surgeries i.e. existing or new patients.

A recent Circular (Circular No. 13/22) was issued to Dentists informing them of changes and fee adjustments/increases effective from 1st May 2022 which may increase the numbers of dentists applying for a DTSS contract.

There are particular issues with the HSE Dental Service for adults i.e. DTSS. This is a nationwide problem and not unique to Co. Wexford. A number of private general dental practitioners (GDP) have resigned from the scheme and many general dental practitioners still operating the scheme have restricted access and may only be seeing existing patients.

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

Yours sincerely,



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