



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
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07 June 2023

**Deputy Violet Anne Wynne
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 24290/23: To ask the Minister for Health the treatments covered under the dental treatment services scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter..

Dear Deputy Wynne,

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

Under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS), patients over the age of 16 who have a medical card can access dental care from contracted dentist.

In any one calendar year they may access:

- A Dental examination including any necessary x rays
- Scale and polish (cleaning)
- Two restorations (fillings) as clinically necessary
- Extractions (as many as necessary)
- Root canal treatment (restricted to front teeth only)
- Denture repairs
- Dentures (need prior approval)

Some patients may be designated as Exceptional/High Risk from dental diseases through medical issues, and can access an additional range of treatments. Access to additional treatments is by application from the patient's dentist following dental examination and is subject to approval by the HSE.

This includes (for Exceptional /High Risk):

- Prolonged Periodontal Treatment
- Second scale and polish (cleaning) after 6 months in a calendar year
- More than two restorations (fillings) in a calendar year

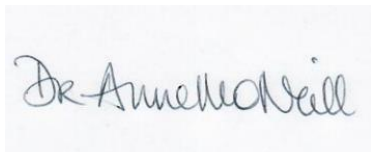
Repeat of previously provided treatments may be subject to time limitations and/or clinical necessity documentation.

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

Oral healthcare services for adults are included in the reorientation of services described in Smile Agus Sláinte (National Oral Health Policy). The initiation of the implementation of the policy is included in priorities and funding from budget 2023.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but if you require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dr Anne M O'Neill". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light grey rectangular box.

**Dr Anne M O'Neill,
HSE AND, National Oral Health Lead - Operations**