



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Violet-Anne Wynne TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

9th June 2023

PQ24292/23* *“To ask the Minister for Health the cross-border treatment options that are available with respect to dental services between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*

Dear Deputy Wynne,

Thank you for your parliamentary question referenced above, which has been forwarded to me for direct reply.

In general, the Cross Border Directive scheme and the Northern Ireland Planned Healthcare scheme allows a patient to access healthcare in the EU/EEA or the private healthcare sector of Northern Ireland respectively, which the patient would have been entitled to access in the public health system in Ireland. The patient pays the provider abroad and claims reimbursement upon return from Ireland. The reimbursement rate is the cost of the healthcare abroad or the cost of the healthcare in the public healthcare system in Ireland whichever is the lesser.

Details of the HSE Dental Services are available on this webpage:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/dental/>

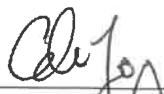
It is not possible to give a definitive answer without specifics of a case, or an application to the scheme especially given it would need to be identified what dental services are referred to and what the persons entitlement, if any, to that particular service is in the public system in Ireland. However, in general dental care is a primary care service. Patients who, for example, have entitlement to dental care via a medical card could seek reimbursement of the dental care they are eligible for via the schemes.


In relation to dental services provided to public patients in the community care setting e.g. dental extractions for patients eligible for and as part of qualifying orthodontic treatment could seek reimbursement under the schemes.

Again, I wish to stress that reimbursement is at the cost of the treatment abroad or the cost of the treatment in the public healthcare system in Ireland whichever is the lesser. Patients are sometimes under the impression that there is an entitlement to reclaim the cost paid for the healthcare abroad without any further terms and conditions.

If you have any queries, or would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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