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14 February 2024

**Deputy Michael Healy-Rae
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

43258/23: To ask the Minister for Health to ensure that people (details supplied) receive dental care; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Having recently visited a Rehab care centre, it was brought to my attention that special people who avail of the services of the excellent Rehab care group are not entitled to free dental care or treatment. This is wrong and surely something that should be rectified.

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

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.

Dental Treatment is made available to medical card holders over the age of 16 through the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS). Dentists who hold a contract with the Scheme provide a range of treatments which are funded by the HSE.

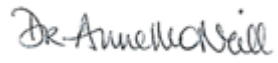
The HSE Community Dental Service provides care to adults with Special Needs who are unable to participate in accessing dental care through the DTSS. Adults with special needs requiring special care dentistry are those with a condition, disability or activity restriction that directly or indirectly affects their oral health and is impacted by the personal and/or the environmental context of the individual.

Adults with disabilities may be able to access HSE dental services in line with the above and also on the specific consideration of the degree of their disability and its impact on their oral health. Special need adult and child patients are identified as eligible for HSE dental services as follows:

- As they progress through the schools service – Special oral health needs may be identified
- Referral into the HSE by GDP or GP
- Screening residential care facilities by Dental teams
- Direct contact by patient/parent /care giver

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

Yours Sincerely,



Anne M O Neill
AND, National Oral Health Lead - Operations