



Office of the Head of Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare
HSE Offices, Lacken
Dublin Road
Kilkenny

Telephone +353 56 7784100

21st March 2024

Deputy Paul Kehoe
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2

PQ 1665/24:- *To ask the Minister for Health if he can confirm what adult dental treatment is offered by the HSE to adults in County Wexford in need of dental treatment, caused by medications/medical treatments for other conditions; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Kehoe,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above PQ 1665/24.

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

I have attached information on the Dental Treatment Services Scheme which details the medical conditions that may classify an adult medical card holder as being in the "Exceptional/High Risk category and thereby possibly eligible for additional dental treatment. Any additional treatment provided to an adult in the Exceptional/High Risk category will be dependent on that person's individual clinical needs, as determined by their General Dental Practitioner.

Under the DTSS, GMS eligible adults (aged sixteen and over) have access to a range of dental treatments and clinical procedures.

Patients falling within the category of exceptional/high-risk cases may be eligible for a more extensive range of treatments, where approved as clinically necessary by a Principal Dental Surgeon (PDS). The list of exceptional/high-risk cases is non-exhaustive but is intended to include such cases as (a) individuals whose general health would be seriously compromised if they did not have access to essential dental treatment, (b) individuals with a disability (such as special needs patients), (c) Hepatitis C patients (with an R card), (d) haemophiliacs or (e) patients suffering from oral cancer. The term 'High Risk' refers to patients for whom untreated dental disease, or the treatment of dental disease, poses significant health problems. 'Exceptional' refers to those patients who may not strictly be classified as high risk, but for whom there is sufficient information available to the PDS as to justify a decision to approve funding for additional care.

A list of the types of health conditions which are deemed to be high risk is contained in the table below.

Complex Cardiac Conditions
Bleeding Disorders including Haemophilia
Cancer Patients
Bisphosphonates
Neurological Disorders
Immuno-suppressed
Pre-operative
Diabetes
Genetic/Congenital
Complex Cardiac Conditions
Intellectual Disability
Dental Vulnerability
Long stay residents of Nursing Homes
Persons on a Methadone Therapy Programme
Social Vulnerability
Mental Health

Dentists may prescribe to eligible persons a range of medicines from the list of 'Dental Prescribable Items'.

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