



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach
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19 July 2024

**Deputy Sean Fleming
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 23716/24:

To ask the Minister for Health to outline the locations where people with disabilities who require serious dental treatment (details supplied) can obtain same in the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter

People with a disability or special needs such as Autism who need serious dental treatment and have to be put to sleep during the treatment because of their condition, the number of locations where this facility is currently available in the country.

Dear Deputy Fleming,

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.

HSE Community Dental Service supports patients who have additional needs in attending for routine dental care and preventive support to maintain their oral health. Where a patient with additional needs is identified as needing operative care but is unable to cooperate without the assistance of some level of sedation, a decision to provide that care under 'waking' sedation or full general anaesthetic is prompted by either the patient's ability to cooperate or the level of treatment required.

General anaesthetic services for primary care dental patients is facilitated in a number of locations. Most locations are HSE hospitals but in some cases lists are carried out in private hospitals through local arrangements. Children with complex medical needs or who are under the age of 2 are referred to Our Lady's Hospital Crumlin, and Temple Street Hospital. Access to theatre time for dental patients can be limited as the same facilities are also used to provide elective and urgent surgeries for other hospital based services.

Table 1 below shows the geographical spread of general anaesthetic facilities which have provided theatre time for dental services. Not all locations are currently in position to provide theatre time.



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| HOSPITAL |
|---------------------------------------|
| Letterkenny University Hospital |
| Sligo University Hospital |
| Castlebar University Hospital |
| Roscommon General Hospital |
| University College Hospital Galway |
| Portiuncula Hospital |
| University Hospital Limerick |
| Nenagh General Hospital |
| Aut Even Hospital Kilkenny |
| University Hospital Tralee |
| Bon Secours Hospital Tralee |
| Cavan General Hospital |
| Louth County Hospital |
| Wexford General Hospital |
| Waterford General Hospital |
| Naas General Hospital |
| Kilkenny General Hospital (St. Lukes) |
| Cork university Hospital |
| Connolly Hospital |
| Tullamore General Hospital |
| Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital |

Table 1 Locations providing dental general anaesthetic services

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 O'Neill
Assistant National Director, Oral Health