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16<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Deputy Joe Cooney  
Lower Market St.  
Ennis  
Co. Clare

**Re: PQ 16658/25 - “To ask the Minister for Health for a list of all dentists in Clare that undertake dental work for those in receipt of a medical card as part of the Dental Treatment Services Scheme; the process whereby a medical card holder who cannot get treatment from such a dentist can do so; the steps that can be taken by her Department to ensure those with a medical card who are entitled to dental treatments through the scheme get access to it; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”**

Dear Deputy Cooney,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

I can advise that private dental practitioners are contracted with the HSE under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS) to provide dental services to patients (over 16) who hold a valid medical card. The Principal Dental Surgeon (PDS) confirmed that it is the responsibility of a medical card patient to secure the services of a DTSS contracted dental practitioner.

Patients may have to contact a number of DTSS dental practitioners/practices before they are successful in finding a dental practitioner who has capacity to take them on as a patient. They may have to travel outside of their local area, county and/or HSE area to secure the services of a DTSS contracted dental practitioner.

In your representation, you have requested a list of DTSS contracted dental practitioners in Clare who provide dental services to patients who hold a medical card. As patients are not restricted in attending a DTSS dental practitioner in their local area and the HSE cannot influence which dental practitioner they attend, the PDS has provided the full listing of DTSS contracted dental practitioners for the HSE Mid West area. Please find attached the listing for your information.

I trust the above information addresses the issues raised in your representation.

Yours sincerely,

  
Carmel McLaughlin  
General Manager Primary Care

Encl.