



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach
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**Deputy Sean Fleming
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 39242/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the waitlist in each HSE region for orthognathic surgery; when it is expected the patients will be dealt with; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

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.

Orthognathic surgery is a head and neck surgery which is undertaken to surgically alter facial bones as part of the correction of misaligned teeth and jaws. It is a surgical pathway requiring two specialties (Consultant Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons and Consultant Orthodontists) to agree and complete a joint treatment plan stage plan for bite correction. The planning phase considers the age and facial bone development of the patient, the alignment of the teeth with an aim to agree an orthodontic pre-surgical treatment phase. When the pre-surgical orthodontic treatment is completed, the Maxillofacial Surgeon will surgically alter the facial bones to the agreed position, providing the patient with a corrected bite. In many cases, patients will be required to wait until they have completed their growth to adulthood before appropriate treatment planning can be undertaken. As the procedure is a significant head and neck surgery, it is only undertaken in hospital settings where access to ICU is part of the planning of the surgery.

The correction of severe orthodontic misalignments requiring orthognathic surgery requires both specialty teams working in collaboration over a two-to-three-year period to bring the patient from planning to completion. These patients cannot progress as single specialty cases i.e. orthodontic pre-surgical treatment is not commenced without having the dual specialty planning component completed, to assess and plan all aspects of the patient's surgical treatment. Currently waiting lists are managed by the Orthodontic Service who schedule joint assessment clinics to determine orthognathic surgery requirements and presurgical treatment planning and thereafter theatre waiting lists for those in treatment, awaiting elective surgery.

Following engagement with each HSE Region, the below table outlines the current position. These numbers are at a point in time (July 2025) and subject to regular change. Individual services collate their information differently and may not have orthognathic specific waiting times. The waiting periods for each location are individual and resource dependent.

HSE Region	Number of patients waiting			
South West	This service applies to the South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital (SIVUH) within the HSE SW. Waiting times for orthognathic surgery are within the Maxillo Facial service.			
	The following are the volume of patients who are currently awaiting procedure on the SIVUH Max Fax WL as of 17.07.2025.			
	0 – 3 Mths	3 – 6 Mths	9 – 12 Mths	12 – 15 Mths
	26	2	1	1
Dublin and Midlands Region	HSE Healthcare Region	Number of persons in active treatment awaiting Elective Orthognathic Surgery	Average wait time for Elective Orthognathic Surgery	
	HSE Dublin and Midlands – Tallaght Orthodontic Unit	26	Treatment planning dependent, up to 2 years	
South East	IHA Waterford and Wexford, IHA Carlow, Kilkenny and South Tipperary			
	Orthodontic patients from Waterford Regional Orthodontic Service requiring Orthognathic Surgery are referred to South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital (SIVUH) in Cork. The waiting times for SIVUH are provided above in HSE South West data.			
	Dublin South and Wicklow			
	HSE Healthcare Region	Number of persons in active treatment awaiting Elective Orthognathic Surgery	Average wait time for Elective Orthognathic Surgery	
MidWest	HSE Dublin South & Wicklow – Loughlinstown Orthodontic Unit	6	Treatment planning dependent, up to 2 years	
	Awaiting reply from Mid-West Region. It will be forwarded when reply is provided.			

Dublin North East				
	HSE Region		Number of persons on the waitlist for orthognathic surgery	Average waitlist time
	IHA Dublin North County and Dublin North City & West - RHA A Dublin North East Ashtown Gate, Navan Road.		9 - These patients are the number ready and waiting for a surgery date	12 months
	CHO8 Louth/Meath – RHA A Dublin North East		36 - In treatment and being prepared for surgery	4/5 years
West and North West				
	HSE Region	Number of persons on the waitlist for orthognathic surgery	Average waitlist time	Additional Comments
	Galway University Hospitals	16	The average time the patients on the waiting list have waited to date is approximately 9-10 months	These figures are part of the overall Maxfac IPDC Waiting List.

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