



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béil,  
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24 June 2025

Deputy Thomas Gould  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ 23782/25**

**To ask the Minister for Health the average waiting time for adults special care needs GA waiting list for routine dental care in each hospital**

Dear Deputy Gould,

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.

The HSE Community Dental Service provides emergency care, dental examinations and treatment to children up to the age of 16. The service also provides dental treatment directly to a range of adult patients with additional needs, with the majority of adult medical card holders being provided with access through the DTSS. A small proportion of children and adults with additional needs will be identified as being unable to accept dental care without the assistance of sedation. The HSE dental service has access to a number of referral pathways for which a recent survey was undertaken (summary below). These wait times were at a point in time and subject to regular change as this data is not routinely collated by the regions. The waiting periods for each location are individual and resource dependent.

All of the services have systems in place to manage those who have urgent (symptomatic) need for care. The ability to schedule patients for dental care under GA can be impacted by local hospital available resources, for example, unavailability of day ward or theatre staff shortages.

Region	Average Wait Time
HSE Mid-West	Longest waiter 18 months
HSE SouthWest	12-18 months
HSE West and North West	12-24 months
HSE Dublin and North East	12-18 months
HSE Dublin and Midlands	36 - 48 months
HSE South East	24 -60 months

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**