



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach
Tel: 061 492068
E: nationaloralhealth@hse.ie
National Oral Health Office
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park, Castletroy, Limerick
Tel: 061 492068
Email: nationaloralhealth@hse.ie

04 November 2025

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 52547/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of special care patients, adult and children, who are on dental surgery waiting lists according to data held by local offices at the end of quarter three for each year 2013 to 2025, by waiting time band and by local health office, in tabular form; the number on waiting lists for dental surgery under general anaesthesia; and the median waiting time for each

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 data is not available as requested. Following engagement with the HSE Regions on the number of patients waiting for treatment under General Anaesthetic, below outlines the current position.

Midwest Region

	0-6 months	6-12 months	12+ months
Adults	195	149	28
Children	0	0	672
Special Care (adults and children)			81

Southwest Region

Please note the number of patients waiting oral surgery under GA reside in Cork, Kerry and surrounding counties.

	0-6 months	6-12 months	12+ months
Adults:	60	32	50
Children:	319	222	438
Special Care (adults and children):	136	136	310

	0-6 months	6-12 months	12+ months
Adult extractions under GA:	6	2	4
Oral Surgery under GA:	54	30	46
Total:	60	32	50
Children Dentistry under GA - Cork Dental Service:	170	180	400
Children Dentistry under GA - Kerry Dental Service:	84	42	38
Children Dentistry under GA - formerly covered by CHO 5. (previously managed in Cork University Dental School and Hospital)	65	0	0
Total:	319	222	438
Special Care (children) Dentistry under GA - Cork Dental Service	90	100	260
Special Care (children) Dentistry under GA - Kerry Dental Service	21	6	0
Total:	111	106	260
Special Care (adults) Cork and Kerry Dentistry under GA:	25	30	50
Total:	25	30	50

Dublin and Midlands Region

Former CHO7

	0-6 months	6-12 months	12+ months
Adults	There is no waiting list for adult GA as there is no service. Limited patients are referred to the DDUH but it is not possible to access waiting list data from there.	There is no waiting list for adult GA as there is no service. Limited patients are referred to the DDUH but it is not possible to access waiting list data from there.	There is no waiting list for adult GA as there is no service. Limited patients are referred to the DDUH but it is not possible to access waiting list data from there.
Children	UPMC Clane= 115 Also referred to CHI hospitals and DDUH but unable to access waiting list data from these.	UPMC Clane= 27 Also referred to CHI hospitals and DDUH but unable to access waiting list data from these.	UPMC Clane= 3 Also referred to CHI hospitals and DDUH but unable to access waiting list data from these.
Special Care (adults and children)	There is no service in former CHO7 for adults or children. Adults are referred to Connolly Hospital for routine dentistry where there are currently 4 waiting in this band. Adults also referred to the DDUH but we are unable to access waiting list data. Children are referred to CHI hospitals and DDUH but we are unable to access waiting list data. .	There is no service in former CHO7 for adults or children. Adults are referred to Connolly Hospital for routine dentistry where there are currently 7 waiting in this band. Adults also referred to the DDUH but we are unable to access waiting list data. Children are referred to CHI hospitals and DDUH but we are unable to access waiting list data. .	There is no service in former CHO7 for adults or children. Adults are referred to Connolly Hospital for routine dentistry where there are currently 3 waiting in this band. Adults also referred to the DDUH but we are unable to access waiting list data. Children are referred to CHI hospitals and DDUH but we are unable to access waiting list data. .

Former CHO8

	0-6 months	6-12 months	12+ months
Special Care Adults	5	3	7
Children	87	35	27
Special Care children	59	35	84

Dublin & South East RegionHSE South Tipperary General Anaesthesia referrals to Cork University Hospital

	0-6 months	6-12 months	12+ months
Adults	32	38	144
Children	50	29	69
Special Care (Adults & Children)	6	9	37

HSE South Tipperary General Anaesthesia referrals to Mallow Hospital

	0-6 months	6-12 months	12+ months
Special Care Adults	3	3	7

HSE Carlow/Kilkenny General Anaesthesia referrals to St. Luke's General Hospital

	0-6 months	6-12 months	12+ months
Children over 5	22	3	0
Special Care Adults	17	2	0
Special Care Children	15	0	0

HSE Carlow/Kilkenny General Anaesthesia referrals to Cork University Hospital

	0-6 months	6-12 months	12+ months
Children under 5	0	5	29
Special Care Adults	0	6	1
Special Care Children	0	0	3

Referrals from Dentists on DTSS to Cork University Hospital for General Anaesthesia

	0-6 months	6-12 months	12+ months
Adults	29	30	109

HSE Wexford General Anaesthesia referrals to Wexford General Hospital

	0-6 months	6-12 months	12+ months
Adults	0	0	0
Children	54	35	0
Special Care Adults & Children	21	23	67

HSE Waterford General Anaesthesia (Special Care) referrals to Aut Even UPMC

	0-6 months	6-12 months	12+ months
Adults	0	0	0
Children	0	0	0
Special Care (adults & Children)	0	0	57

University Hospital Waterford has agreed to re-commence the General Anaesthesia service. Initially, this service will accommodate two patients per week, with discussions ongoing regarding the future expansion of the service.

IHA Dublin South and Wicklow

The Office of the Head of Service, Primary Care in IHA Dublin South and Wicklow is responsible for the following services;

- Orthodontic Units in Loughlinstown and Tallaght – GA referrals to UPMC
- Primary Care Dental Service, IHA Dublin South and Wicklow – GA referrals to UPMC (via CHO 7 MOU), St Columcille's & Connolly Hospital (via CHO 9 managed list).
- Dublin Dental University Hospital (in respect of HSE funded services) – GA referrals to Mater & limited access to St Colmcille's Hospital

The total number of patients waiting across this region are shown in Table 1 and broken down by individual services within the IHA in the following tables.

Table 1. Total number of patients on GA waiting lists by wait bands – Primary Care IHA Dublin South & Wicklow (October 2025)

(all oral health services)

	0-6 months	6-12 months	12+ months	Total Waiting By Client Category
Adults	55	36	38	125
Children	84	83	9	176
Special Care (adults and children)	19	9	1	29
Total waiting (in months)	158	128	48	334

Table 2. Total number of patients on GA waiting lists by wait bands – Primary Care Dental Service (October 2025)

	0-6 months	6-12 months	12+ months	Total
Adults	4	1		5
Children	13	48		61
Special Care (adults and children)	11	4	1	16
Total	28	53	1	82

Notes on Primary Care Dental Service GA Referrals

* The waiting list for Primary Care Dental referrals for adults are from the Columcille Hospital Hospital Minor oral Surgery list.

*The waiting list for adults referred for restorative treatment at Connolly Hospital is managed through CHO9

- IHA Dublin South and Wicklow referrals to Connolly Hospital are triaged and managed by CHO 9.

Table 3. Total number of patients on GA waiting lists by wait bands – Dublin Dental Hospital (October 2025)

	0-6 months	6-12 months	12+ months	Total
Adults	50	35	38	123
Children	29	24	9	62
Special Care (adults and children)	8	5	0	13
Total	87	64	47	198

Table 4. Total number of patients on GA waiting lists by wait bands – Loughlinstown Orthodontic Unit (October 2025)

	0-6 months	6-12 months	12+ months	Total
Adults	0	0	0	0
Children	33	11	0	44
Special Care (adults and children)	0	0	0	0
Total	33	11	0	44

Table 5. Total number of patients on GA waiting lists by wait bands – Orthodontic Unit Tallaght (October 2025)

	0-6 months	6-12 months	12+ months	Total
Adults	1			1
Children	9			9
Special Care (adults and children)	0			0
Total	10			10

Additional notes

- Both Orthodontic units refer to a private provider (exact number on waiting list vs treated) is not known until treatment is completed and invoice received)

Dublin & North East Region

Integrated Health Area – Cavan/Monaghan

	0-6 months	6-12 months	12+ months
Adults	29	16	28
Children	65	30	53
Special Care (adults and children)	32	16	18

Integrated Health Area – Louth/Meath

	0-6 months	6-12 months	12+ months
Adults-Special Care	2	7	20
Children	65	2	0
Children -Special Care	51	52	37

Integrated Health Areas Dublin North County

	0-6 months	6-12 months	12+ months
+Adults oral surgery	12	0	0
Children extraction list	47	17	10
Special Care adults restorative	7	10	8
Special care children restorative	No list because no service		

Integrated Health Areas Dublin North City & West

	0-6 months	6-12 months	12+ months
Adults oral surgery	24	0	0
Children extraction list	117	27	0
Special Care adults restorative	13	11	19
Special care children restorative	No list because no service		

Notes: Integrated Health Area - Dublin North County and Dublin North City & West

1. The children waiting for a GA beyond 6 months tend to be those where Dental and Oral Surgery Services UPMC at Clane hospital have not been able to make contact with the parent to organise an appointment.
2. The Connolly GA wait list is a combined list managed in Dublin North City & West
3. There is no separate wait list for children with special care needs. They would be included in the numbers for UPMC and we cannot separate them out. These appointments are for extraction only. There is no wait list for children with special care needs who require restorative dentistry.
4. There is an adult GA list for extractions. This referral pathway is via an oral surgery wait list. I would not have access to this.

West North West Region

Data return delayed due to staff leave.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but if you require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Anne O'Neill

Assistant National Director Oral Health