



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach
Teil: 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

30 September 2025

**Deputy Shónagh Ní Raghallaigh
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 48611/25

To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE funds fissure sealant treatment to children through the school dental programme.

Dear Deputy Ní Raghallaigh,

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 Dental Services have a preventive ethos, and seek to minimise the likelihood of dental disease, including dental decay (caries) from developing. Preventive measures include modification of risk factors including dietary intake of cariogenic foods and drinks, effective use of fluorides including fluoridated toothpaste, and professional interventions such as fissure sealants. Children are seen through the school dental programme at ages that correspond with dental developmental milestones to identify opportunities for timely preventive interventions such as fissure sealants and the need for restorative treatment, as well as monitoring the eruption of the permanent dentition including possible orthodontic anomalies requiring referral for HSE orthodontic assessment.

Fissure sealants are adhesive resins that bond to tooth enamel and are placed using a non-invasive technique. They offer protection from dental caries in the fissures or grooves on the biting surfaces of permanent molar and premolar teeth. The decision by a dentist to offer any item of treatment to a patient is based on the capacity to benefit from the intervention. With regard to offering fissure sealants as a preventive treatment a number of factors are considered, including the condition of the fissures, assessment of risk that caries will develop, and the patient's ability to co-operate with the placement of the sealant which involves creating a very dry field. The placement of fissure sealants requires informed consent, in the case of children this is discussed with the child's parents.

Fissure sealants are therefore a preventive treatment modality which is offered when appropriate by HSE dental services. The extent of provision of fissure sealants in each HSE dental area depends on the level of service available.

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