



Oifig um Cheannasai Seirbhíse do Chúram Priomhúil
Cúram Sláinte Phobail FSS an Mheán Iarthair
Ascaill Bhaile Choimín,
Páirc Gnó an Ráithín,
Ráithín, Luimneach V94 D1W9
Teil: 061 483226

Office of the Head of Service for Primary Care
HSE Mid West Community Healthcare
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25th July 2024

Deputy Michael Lowry
Constituency Office
Abbey Road
Thurles
Co. Tipperary

Re: PQ 31002/24 - "To ask the Minister for Health if guidance will be provided by the HSE to parents living in the catchment area of Nenagh Hospital who have children with special needs, regarding what they should do in the event of an emergency dental appointment, given that there is currently no special needs dentistry services at Nenagh Hospital; if Portlaoise Hospital, which has special needs dentistry services, will accept emergency cases; if he and the HSE can provide any assistance or advice on this matter to such emergency dental appointment cases; and if he will make a statement on the matter."

Dear Deputy Lowry,

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 the HSE provides dental treatment (extractions and/or routine care) under general anaesthetic (Dental GA) for children and adults (with additional needs) at UL Hospital Limerick and Nenagh Hospital. Dental GA sessions are provided by one of the Snr. Dental Surgeons from the HSE Community Dental Service and they are supported by hospital staff (i.e. nurses, an anaesthesiologist etc.). The sessions are carried out in a surgical theatre within the hospital on dates and times allocated to the Community Dental Service by the hospital group.

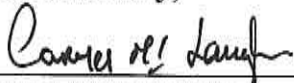
The Principal Dental Surgeon has confirmed that Dental GA sessions are being provided at Nenagh Hospital. As advised in my response to your representation PQ 31001/24, the Snr. Dental Surgeon (Special Needs) for the East Limerick/Nth. Tipperary area resigned her position at the end of February 2024 and, despite running two recruitment campaigns to fill this vacancy, the HSE has been unsuccessful in recruiting a suitably qualified replacement. The loss of this resource along with the need to amalgamate the waiting list of patients from the East Limerick/Nth. Tipperary area with the waiting list for the rest of the CHO3 area (Limerick & Clare), has resulted in longer wait times for patients on the CHO3 Dental GA waiting list.

In your representation, you query if Portlaoise Hospital would be in a position to accept emergency dental cases. As Portlaoise Hospital is not located in the HSE Mid West area (CHO3), this aspect of your representation would need to be redirected to CHO Area 8 (which covers Laois/Offaly, Longford/Westmeath, Louth/Meath) for response.

If a child (under 16) has a dental emergency, their parent/guardian can contact their local HSE Dental Clinic between 9 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. (Monday to Friday) to request an emergency dental appointment. The call will be triaged and an emergency appointment arranged for the relief of pain and/or dental sepsis for the presenting emergency.

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

Yours sincerely,



Carmel McLaughlin
General Manager
Primary Care