



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach
Teil: 061 492068
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National Oral Health Office
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
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21 June 2024

Deputy Matt Carthy
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 22631/24 To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 17 of 8 May 2024; the actions he intends to take in order to ensure that children have adequate access to orthodontic treatment in situations whereby their clinician retires; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Carthy,

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 Orthodontic Service is provided in Regional Orthodontic Departments. Access to treatment with the HSE Orthodontic Service is limited to those children with the most severe and complex orthodontic treatment needs. Referral for orthodontic assessment is usually made in 6th Class. The Modified Index of Treatment Needs (Modified IOTN) system is used in all regions to determine if a child will be accepted for treatment. There are a number of categories within the Modified IOTN system, and these are used to prioritise care, children whose treatment need is assessed as being in Grade 4 or Grade 5 of the Index are offered treatment with the HSE.

There are two general reasons why patients may experience interrupted care;

- Planned retirement of clinician
- Clinician is too unwell to undertake clinics

Where a clinician is unavailable, an interim arrangement may be put in place for another clinician within the service to see patients while a recruitment process is being undertaken or until the clinician returns to clinical duties.

One regional orthodontic unit has experienced a significant number of interrupted treatment cases. In addition to utilising available support from existing staff, the service has also initiated both temporary/agency and permanent recruitment campaigns. The service is also working with the HSE National Oral Health Office to utilise a waiting list initiative framework to outsource some patients to private contractors for completion of treatment plans in accordance with the framework agreement.



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

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dr. Anne O'Neill".

Anne O'Neill

Assistant National Director, Oral Health