



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,
National Technology Park, Castletroy, Limerick
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19 July 2024

**Deputy Pauline Tully
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 23602/24:

To ask the Minister for Health to detail the range of dental treatments available to medical card holders who are under active chemotherapy or radiotherapy treatment or under medication prescribed by an oncologist; and if he plans to increase the number of dental treatments cancer patients are entitled to receive, as their teeth can often be detrimentally affected due to their cancer treatment

Dear Deputy Tully,

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.

Under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS), patients over the age of 16 who have a medical card can access dental care from contracted dentist.

The range of treatments available on the scheme are;

- A Dental examination including any necessary x rays
- Scale and polish (cleaning)
- Two restorations (fillings) as clinically necessary
- Extractions (as many as necessary)
- Root canal treatment (restricted to front teeth only)
- Denture repairs
- Dentures (need prior approval)

Any patient receiving cancer care is designated as Exceptional/High Risk from dental diseases through medical issues. While non high risk patients are limited in the number of treatments they can routinely access, high risk patients can access additional treatments. Access to additional treatments is by application from the patient's dentist following dental examination and is subject to approval by the HSE.



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Oral healthcare services for adults are included in the reorientation of services described in Smile Agus Sláinte (National Oral Health Policy) – the implementation of which is included in priorities and funding from budget 2023.

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