



5<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Claire Kerrane, TD  
Dáil Eireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 46650/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health the supports that are in place for patients who have come off the drug methadone and who now deal with tooth decay (and are unable to eat certain foods which effects both physical and mental health and which also effects an individual's appearance); and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Claire Kerrane**

Dear Deputy Kerrane,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

National Oral Health have provided the following information regarding access to dental services under DTSS:

Adult medical card holders (aged 16 and over) have access to dental services under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS) through care provided by private dentists and clinical dental technicians. The DTSS is a "choice of dentist" scheme which does not require the patient to register with a particular dentist and enables medical card holders to attend any DTSS contractor directly without recourse to the HSE. List of DTSS contractors are available from each local HSE dental services. Where access to a DTSS dentist is difficult the local HSE dental service assists patients in accessing care.

In any one calendar year entitlement includes scale and polish, two restorations (fillings), as many extractions as necessary and root canal treatment on front teeth. The HSE has prioritised the range of treatments to ensure access to emergency dental care for eligible patients. Additional care is considered in exceptional or high risk cases. Patients falling within the category of exceptional/high-risk may be eligible for a more extensive range of treatments, where approved as clinically necessary by the local HSE Principal Dental Surgeon. The list of exceptional/high-risk cases is non-exhaustive but includes persons on a Methadone Therapy Programme.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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Prof Eamon Keenan  
National Clinical Lead-Addiction Services  
HSE National Social Inclusion Office

