INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS AND PARENTS OR CARERS

Cross-border **braces**

The HSE scheme for children who live in the Republic of Ireland

PORTADOWN ORTHODONTICS

What is **the scheme?**

The Health Service Executive (HSE) in the Republic of Ireland runs the **Northern Ireland Planned Healthcare Scheme (NIPHS)**. Many people still call it the **Cross Border Directive**. (The Cross Border Directive itself now covers other EU and EEA countries.)

Under the scheme, you pay a **private** provider in Northern Ireland for your child's treatment. When treatment is finished, you can apply to the HSE for a repayment towards the cost.

Who it **may help**

- Families who **live in the Republic of Ireland**.
- Children **under 16** who are **eligible for HSE orthodontic treatment**. Many are already on an HSE waiting list.
- Treatment must be with a **private** provider. The scheme cannot be used for health service (HSC) treatment in Northern Ireland.

Live in Northern Ireland? This scheme is not for you. Ask your dentist about a referral for health service (HSC) braces, or ask us about private treatment.

Treatment with us **under the scheme**

We provide treatment under the scheme. **Our orthodontists can carry out the IOTN assessment** (Index of Orthodontic Treatment Need) used to determine eligibility for HSE funding. The HSE makes the final decision on any repayment.

Dr William Maguire is a specialist orthodontist registered with both the **Dental Council of Ireland** (dentist no. 1623; Specialist Register (Orthodontics) no. 10DS23) and the **General Dental Council (GDC)** in the UK (GDC no. 257969).

How it **usually works**

Step	What happens
1. Assessment	We carry out your child's IOTN assessment to see whether they are eligible for HSE funding. If the HSE has already assessed your child, bring their eligibility letter.
2. Treatment planning appointment	At this appointment, we explain the treatment, how long it should take and the fees.
3. Treatment	You pay us directly. Keep every receipt.
4. Claim	When the braces are off and your child is wearing retainers, send the HSE healthcare costs application form with the documents below. We complete our section of the form.

Scheme prices (metal braces)

For children **under 16** having treatment under the scheme. **Metal braces only** – clear aligners are not available under the scheme.

Item	Price
Assessment (including IOTN assessment to determine eligibility for the cross-border scheme)	£100
Metal braces	£2,630
Retainers	£170
Total	**£2,900**

How much the **HSE may repay**

- The HSE may repay **up to €2,800** towards the cost of treatment. **Check the current amount with the HSE** before you start.
- The HSE will not repay more than you paid. Repayment is only made **after treatment is finished**.
- Our fees are in pounds (£) and the HSE repays in euro (€), so exchange rates can change the amount you get back. You pay any difference.
- Travel, accommodation and other costs are **not covered**.

Documents for **your claim**

- The completed **HSE healthcare costs application form**.
- A referral letter, or a letter confirming your child is on a public waiting list in the Republic of Ireland.
- The **letter confirming your child is eligible** for treatment (from the HSE orthodontic service, or from us if we carried out the IOTN assessment).
- **Proof of payment** showing the patient's name and address, our details, the treatment, dates and amounts, and proof that you paid us directly.
- **Tip:** some parents buy a coffee from a shop in Portadown on appointment days. Sharing that receipt with the HSE can help show you travelled to our clinic on the dates you gave for treatment.

The HSE says it aims to repay within 30 working days of receiving all the completed documents.

Please check **before you start**

- Whether choosing treatment in Northern Ireland affects your child's place on the HSE waiting list or any later HSE treatment.
- Private health insurance cannot be used for the referral, and you cannot claim for any part your insurer has paid.
- If the HSE refuses your claim, you can appeal within 3 months of the decision.

HSE **contact details**

Contact	HSE Northern Ireland Planned Healthcare Scheme
Phone	056 778 4546 (from Northern Ireland: 00 353 56 778 4546)
Email	crossborderdirective@hse.ie
Address	HSE, St Canice's Hospital, Dublin Road, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny
Website	www2.hse.ie – search "Northern Ireland Planned Healthcare Scheme"

Questions **or problems?**

Clinic name	Heathwood House	**Phone**	028 3870 2623
Email	heathwoodhouse@djmaguiredentists.co.uk		
Opening hours	Mon–Thu 8am–5pm; Fri 8am–4pm (usually closed 1–2pm)		

Please have your name and date of birth ready when you contact us.