

REFERRALS TO THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SALARIED DENTAL SERVICE FOR SPECIAL CARE PATIENTS

We are pleased to receive referrals from health and social partners including:

Hospital Doctors	General Dental Practitioners
Homes	General Medical Practitioners
Health Visitors	Community Learning Disability Teams
Social Care Teams	Community Mental Health Teams
School Nurses	Practice Nurses

Referrals will only be accepted for:

- Patients living within Nottinghamshire, or
- Those who live outside Nottinghamshire but whose **General Medical Practitioner** (not General Dental Practitioner) is in Nottinghamshire.

Referrals must be made on grounds of clinical need, **NOT** for example:

- on parent's request or
- if requirement for an interpreter is the sole reason for referral

Referrals can be made for:

1. Continuing Care for adults and children

Referrals are accepted for any of the following client groups whose needs **significantly affect the provision of dental care and who cannot be treated in General Dental Practice**. This may mean that clients move in and out of eligibility or are only eligible once they reach a certain stage in the progress of their condition.

Examples of patients eligible for the service are those with:

- **Mental Health conditions** that significantly affect provision of dental care (patients must be under the current care of a registered mental health care practitioner)
- **Moderate to Severe Learning Disability.**
- **Mild Learning Disability** with compounding factors, e.g. sensory impairment, mental health, anxiety or behavioural issues.
- **Significant medical conditions that affect dental care, e.g. MS, Parkinson's, Blood Dyscrasia, Dementia, Autistic Spectrum Disorder**
- **Looked after Children/Looked after Young People** whilst in care. Referral only accepted if a GDP is not available through the foster family or there are challenging behaviour issues.
- **Physical Disability** preventing access to any GDP; NB this is not just access to your practice/surgery. You must be able to confirm no GDP is able to provide access for this patient.

These patients may be treated either on a **shared care** basis with the practice or **solely by the service** on a specialist basis.

2. Domiciliary Care

This is only available for patients with:

- An agreed medical condition which would mean patients could not physically be moved from their domicile on health grounds or to do so would cause significant distress affecting the outcome of care; e.g. moderate to severe dementia, palliative care, neurological medical condition, agoraphobia, home oxygen and bed bound
- Those who can only get out with an ambulance and such transport cannot be arranged to attend the clinic.

3. A single course of treatment for children up to the age of 16 with behavioural management/anxiety issues where care may be provided using inhalation sedation or general anaesthesia.

Referrals will be accepted for a single course of treatment for those who require treatment but are unable to cope with local anaesthetic alone and who fall into the following groups:

- pre-school children
- children with behavioural issues, moderate anxiety or phobia
- adults with mild learning disability

We expect LA to have been considered.

- Referrals for Behavioural Anxiety Management must include details of treatment already attempted.
- Our service will provide a course of treatment as requested. You will be able to indicate whether you are referring for Inhalation sedation or General anaesthesia.
- This treatment plan may be altered to reflect a) the patient's ability to accept treatment and b) their ability to maintain their oral health.
- Following specific treatment, the patient will be returned to the referring GDP or supported to find a GDP for routine care including provision of dentures if needed. We will not accept these patients for regular care in the service.

For treatment under Inhalation Sedation

- Patients must be (in general) no younger than 5 or 6 years of age depending on maturity
- There should be no medical contraindications
- Children/adults with learning disabilities will be considered, but will be individually assessed for suitability

For treatment under General Anaesthesia

- All cases will be assessed for medical suitability.
- Extractions/Restoration will be provided as appropriate. No advanced conservation will be carried out.
- No treatment will be carried out that would require more than one GA to complete.
- Any sound permanent teeth will not be extracted for orthodontic reasons unless a letter is received from the Consultant Orthodontist expressly supporting the need for GA.

Other

If a patient cannot cope with the stairs at an existing GDP practice, and does not have any other special needs requiring specialist care, ask the patient to call NHS England's Customer Contact Centre on 0300 311 2233 or visit the NHS England website (www.england.nhs.uk/contact-us/) to help them find a more accessible GDP.

Referrals should be made to:

Nottinghamshire Salaried Dental Service
Park House Health and Social Care Centre
61 Burton Road
Carlton
Nottingham
NG4 3DQ

If you are unsure if a patient is a suitable candidate for referral to the Special Care Dental Service or would like some advice on a particular issue, please ring the office on **0115 9935540** and one of our senior clinicians will contact you to discuss the case.

NHS Dental Patient Charges when referred from a GDP

Referrals for sedation including GA, inhalation sedation and domiciliaries are defined as 'additional service contracts'. In this case all the patient's treatment is carried out as two separate courses of treatment.

The referring dentist carries out the work they are doing only, e.g. exam, completes the course of treatment at that point and only charges the patient for what they have done. They will receive the appropriate number of UDA's for the work they have carried out.

As the second dentist carrying out treatment under 'additional services', we would then charge the patient separately for the treatment we carry out and receive the appropriate number of UDA's for this work.

See NHS BSA Dental Division home page, click on 'Ask Us', type in 'additional services' in the search criteria box and then click on 'Additional services referral-what is this and how do I claim for it?', or the web address is as follows:

<https://nhsuk.epticahosting.com/selfnhsukokb/template.do?name=Additional+services+referral+-+what+is+this+and+how+do+I+claim+for+it%3F&id=16363>

Patient Journey

1. The first appointment is for an assessment only and can usually be undertaken at a clinic local to the patient's home. Some specialist services, however, are only provided in certain clinics or Domiciliary Services at a patient's home.
2. Whilst a patient is awaiting an appointment for consultation following a referral, emergency and routine treatment remain the responsibility of the referring clinician.
3. Patients accepted by NSDS will be assessed during a consultation and should their treatment needs be deemed manageable within General Dental Practice they will be returned with appropriate advice and / or a treatment plan.
4. If patients are accepted for treatment, it is on the understanding (of the patient, parent and the referring dentist) that a single item of treatment or a complete course of treatment will be undertaken and then the patient will be discharged back to their referring GDP for review and continuing care.
5. For some patients, at the discretion of NSDS, it may be appropriate for continuing care to be provided within NSDS because of the patient's additional needs.
6. It is recognised that patients' needs do change with time, and the appropriateness of their care within NSDS will be reviewed. Patients may be discharged after receiving care from NSDS for a period of time if their on going dental needs can be provided by a GDP.
7. A shared care model may also be adopted whereby routine examination, oral health assessment and preventative care is provided by a GDP whilst clinical interventions are provided by NSDS.

Patients that fail to attend

Patients who fail to attend their initial assessment appointment will not normally be offered a further appointment. The referrer will be informed that they have not attended and be asked to re-refer them if they still require treatment. Subsequent to the initial assessment patients will be discharged following either two 'DNAs' or two short notice cancellations. Such patients will not be offered further appointments without re-referral and reassessment against the acceptance criteria. Safeguarding concerns will be managed in accordance with NSDS policies