

## **Acceptance and discharge criteria for CCDS Paediatric Dental Services**

**April 2014**

The Paediatric Dental Team provides care for children up to the age of 16 years old. A range of services are available, this includes treatment by

- Undergraduate dental care professionals (dentists and therapist/hygienist students)
- Community Dental Service clinicians
- Consultant

### **Important information for referrers:**

**Not all services are available at all clinics and it may not be possible to offer the dental care required at the nearest clinic to a child's home address.**

Consequently, it is important that referrers discuss this with parents/carers prior to referral. All referrals will be assessed in a central location and be allocated based on the content of the referral letter. For this reason, it is imperative that as much information is included as possible to enable the child to be seen by the most appropriate member of staff/student in the best location for that service.

Referrals are accepted from dentists and other health care professionals for children as follows:

### **Enhanced services:**

1. Caries and poor co-operation.  
It is inappropriate to refer a child for caries without having provided dietary advice, oral hygiene instruction and some attempt has been made to acclimatise the patient, ie introduction to equipment, placement of temporary dressing.
2. Children with a significant medical condition, learning disability and/or behavioural problems with dental disease requiring treatment that is unable to be provided in a primary care setting. Referrals will also be accepted where co-operation is too poor to be able to undertake a basic dental examination. (Please note: this does not include the pre-cooperative child who is disease free.)
3. Extractions where local anaesthesia alone has been unsuccessful and requires inhalation sedation.
4. In Sandwell, Dudley and Walsall, extractions requiring general anaesthetic. In Birmingham, referrals should be sent directly to Birmingham dental Hospital.

Please note: simple orthodontic extractions will not be undertaken using general anaesthetic.

5. Children requiring dental treatment where there are complex social issues to be resolved – please provide as much information as possible to make the reason for referral clear.

**Specialist Services:**

1. Dental anomalies, eg enamel/dentine defects, delayed eruption, supernumerary tooth, molar incisor hypomineralisation etc
2. Poor prognosis permanent teeth in the mixed dentition.
3. Dental trauma – referrals for simple restoration or closed apex endodontic treatment will not be accepted.
4. Non carious tooth tissue loss.
5. Children with a significant medical condition, learning disability and/or behavioural problems who cannot be managed by enhanced practitioners.
6. Adolescents (14 years plus) requiring intravenous sedation for dental treatment – restorations or extractions.
7. Complex or failed extraction where GA is not required.
8. Comprehensive dental care under general anaesthetic for children with learning disabilities (Sandwell, Dudley, Walsall). (Birmingham children should be referred to Birmingham Dental Hospital.) Children with serious medical problems should be referred directly to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

**Student care:**

**PLEASE NOTE:** treatment is only available during term time.

At all other times the referring dentist will be required to see the child eg holiday periods, emergency care or if the care is beyond the scope of an undergraduate. Children not suitable for undergraduate care will not be transferred to Community Dental Services unless they fulfil the acceptance criteria for those services.

1. Any age up to 16, but ages 4 to 13 are ideal.
2. Willing to be treated by students.
3. Be prepared to travel for several appointments.
4. Co-operative

5. Post G.A. preventive care/acclimatisation.
6. Simple preventive care - e.g. fissure sealants, dietary advice, disclosing and brushing etc
7. Scaling, polishing, periodontal care
8. Microabrasion
9. Extractions under L.A.
10. Pulp treatments, preformed metal crowns, anterior composites.

## **Discharge**

If a child is referred by a dentist, he/she will be discharged to the referring dentist upon completion of the course of treatment.

Children referred by other health care professionals will be signposted to NHS General Dental Services or undergraduate teaching clinics upon completion of treatment

The exceptions to this will include:

- Children with significant medical needs which require them to receive ongoing care from a Specialist or clinician with additional skills in managing the medical issues – this includes challenging behaviour attributed to medical diagnosis (eg ADHD, autistic spectrum).
- Where there is a clinical indication to monitor eg dental trauma, poor prognosis first permanent molars (this list is not exhaustive). In these types of circumstance, shared care will be undertaken with the referring dentist.

Where shared care is being undertaken, it is the responsibility of the general dentist to provide preventive advice, hygiene support and fluoride applications (as clinically indicated).

All children will be discharged from paediatric dentistry upon reaching their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, upon completion of treatment. Depending on clinical need, adolescents will be signposted to:

- General Dental Services
- Special Care dental services
- Other Specialist dental services