



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

School of Dentistry

P.L.M. Tomson BDS, PhD, MFDS RCSEd, RCSEd,
FDS (Rest Dent) RCSEd.

**Senior Clinical Lecturer and Honorary Consultant
in Restorative Dentistry**

Tel: +44 (0)121 466 5173

Fax: +44 (0)121 625 8815

Email: p.l.tomson@bham.ac.uk

30th October 2015

Dear Colleague,

Re: Referral of Endodontic Cases for Treatment by Undergraduate Dental Students - Pilot

I am writing to ask if you would be interested in helping support our dental undergraduates by referring appropriate patients for teaching purposes. Endodontics is one of the most demanding clinical procedures to learn as an undergraduate dental student. In order to develop the necessary skills, it is essential that students have the opportunity to carry out root canal treatment on suitable patients in a supportive environment. One of our biggest challenges is getting enough patients who require endodontic treatment (at the appropriate level of complexity) for our students to treat. We are therefore piloting an initiative to encourage GPs to engage and help support our dental undergraduates' education by referring suitable patients for primary root canal treatment. Once the treatment of that tooth is complete the patient will be discharged back to the referring dentist.

So that we can manage the flow of cases, practitioners wishing to refer patients through this referral mechanism need to register with the UG endodontic administrator. This will help establish clear lines of communication between the hospital and referrer. Our capacity to treat cases varies throughout the calendar year so it is important that we can communicate directly with the registered practitioners and let you know about the number of cases required etc. Once registered, you will be given a registration number, an electronic referral form and patient information leaflet to start referring patients.

As you can appreciate we cannot take on cases that are too complex so there are very specific acceptance criteria that have to be met so that we can ensure that patients and referrers are not disappointed. These are outlined overleaf.

This initiative has the support of the Restorative Dentistry Managed Clinical Network and Local Professional Network. If you wish to register, please email Danielle Williams at ugendoreferrals@contacts.bham.ac.uk with your name, practice address, phone number and email address **(DO NOT SEND REFERRALS TO THIS EMAIL ACCOUNT)**. Once we have received this information we will confirm registration, give you a registration number, email you the electronic referral form and patient information leaflet. We intend to communicate with registered practitioners electronically so any practitioner wishing to participate must ensure they have an email address. Once you have registered you will be given instructions of how to refer. We will be able to accept paper based referral letters and/or electronic referrals from NHS net email addresses.

We look forward to your involvement

Yours Faithfully,

Dr Phil Tomson
**Senior Clinical Lecturer and
Honorary Consultant in Restorative Dentistry**

Endodontic Referral Guidelines for Undergraduate Treatment

Birmingham Community Healthcare Trust and the University of Birmingham are delighted that you are considering referring your patient for endodontic treatment on the undergraduate clinic and supporting the education of our future dentists. To ensure that the referral is dealt with efficiently and the referrer or patient is not disappointed, please review the guidelines below:

Case criteria required for undergraduate endodontic treatment:

- Primary endodontic treatment of uncomplicated single and multi-rooted teeth
- The tooth to be treated must have enough sound coronal tissue to retain a rubber dam
- The patient must be willing to attend multiple long visits at Birmingham Dental Hospital (e.g a minimum of 4 x 2 hour visits for a molar treatment)
- Primary disease has been stabilised
- The patient is willing to be treated by an undergraduate student

Cases with any of the following criteria will **NOT** be accepted:

- Root canals that have previously been obturated
- Roots / canals with curvature $>15^{\circ}$ to the root axis
- Canals that are NOT considered negotiable through their entire length based on radiographic evidence
- Canals that have been obstructed or previous attempts at an access cavity has caused damage to the pulp chamber
- Teeth $> 25\text{mm}$ in length
- Patient has limitation of mouth opening ($< 35\text{mm}$ inter-incisal opening)
- Teeth with developmental abnormalities or incompletely developed roots

Referrals must contain:

- A fully completed referral form
- A periapical radiograph of diagnostic value

Referrals will be returned if:

- The form is not completed fully
- It is illegible
- The referring dentist is not registered with the UG Endodontic Administrator as part of the undergraduate endodontic referral process
- Does not meet the criteria outlined above