

Guidelines for referral of ADULTS to Solent Special Care Dental Service

Information and Guidance for making a referral to Special Care Dentistry (SCD)

Contents

1. Introduction
 2. Acceptance criteria
 3. Additional information for Dental Phobia
 4. Additional information for Domiciliary Services
 5. Bariatric services
 6. Completing and sending a referral
- Appendix 1

1. Introduction

This guide is intended to assist with the appropriate referral of patients with additional needs and those requiring specialist care and/or shared care.

Before you send a referral to our service please take time to read through the information provided in these guidance notes. Once you have read the referral guidance if you would like to speak to a clinician or have further information before making this referral please call our Single Point of Referral Centre on 0300 300 2014 Option 3. An answer phone is in operation when the service is not manned.

Following treatment a decision will be made regarding need to be retained within the service for continuing care. Patients will usually be referred back to the referring practitioner for continuing care.

For referrals from a non-dentist, patients and referrers will be made aware at the end of treatment that they will be supported to find a local NHS dentist or signposted via the Helpline telephone service on Tel no. 111.

2. Acceptance Criteria

Referrals are accepted from:

Dental Practitioners
General Practitioners
Any other Health or Social Care Professional
Voluntary organisations and community groups
Education Professionals
Families, carers, self-referral where appropriate

Patients referred to this service must be registered with a GP in the Hampshire/Isle of Wight area.

Patient information

The patients who we look after must require Specialist /Special Care Dental Services and must:

- Be aged 18 or over **and**
- Have a severe disability, medical, physical or mental health condition.

This means they may have:

- Severe difficulty communicating, giving consent and/or co-operating with treatment in general dental practice
- Significant risk of a medical emergency, bleeding or healing problems
- An inability to bear their own weight for transfer to the dental chair without special equipment or are unable to leave the home
- Severe and enduring mental health conditions with unusual altered thought, extreme mood or behaviour which will restrict provision of care
- Dental phobia at the severe end of the spectrum such that it has prevented them from accessing dental care for many years.

Appendix 1 gives a list of relevant conditions for special care dentistry.

Treatment may be provided under local anaesthesia, inhalation sedation, intravenous sedation or where appropriate, general anaesthesia. Please note general anaesthesia is not provided for routine dental care for adults without additional needs.

Specialist equipment such as wheelchair recliners, hoists and bariatric chairs are available at selected sites.

All care is provided under the NHS regulations and we do not offer private dental care.

3. Additional information for Dental Phobia

The principles on which patients will be accepted to the Specialist SCD Service are that they should have additional needs (refer to Appendix 1).

Referrals will not be accepted for anxious patients who do not have an additional need or who require minor oral surgery procedures including extraction only treatment plans, molar endodontics or where treatment with local anaesthesia has not been attempted by the referring dentist.

Patients will be referred back to their dentist on completion of the course of treatment.

4. Additional information for Home Visits

Specialist (SCD) Services are only able to accept referrals for home visits for people with severe disability, or with complex medical or mental health conditions whose additional needs cannot be met by a General Dental Practitioner.

Examples of reasons for acceptance of referrals for a home visit assessment would be for those who are unable to leave the house due to high medical risk, severe agoraphobia, and confinement to bed or severe agitation for dental appointments due to challenging behaviour.

5. Bariatric Services

- Patients weighing over 21 stone and cannot be treated in general practice may be referred

6. Completing and Sending a Referral

- **DENTISTS**

Please complete parts A and C

- **NON-DENTISTS**

Please complete parts A and B

eg Family, carers, social, and non-dental Health Care Professionals

Please note

- Forms must be completed legibly and with all sections completed.
- Forms not completed will be returned to the referrer. This will delay patient care
- Please ensure the patient and/or advocate/main carer has been informed of the reasons for this referral.
- NHS dental charges will apply unless the patient is exempt. Proof of exemption will need to be presented to the dental team at the dental visit.
- Any personal information that is processed by the Trust will be done so in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018.

Please send referral to:

Solent NHS Trust Dental Single Point of Access, Level A, Royal South Hants Hospital, Brinton's Terrace, SOUTHAMPTON SO14 0YG

Tel: 0300 300 2014 Option 3

E-mail: SNHS.CentralPointofReferral@nhs.net

Appendix 1: List of conditions relevant to Special Care Dentistry

All the following conditions range in severity from mild, moderate to severe and are associated with varying levels of disability. Those at the moderate to severe end of the spectrum may be appropriate for referral to specialist SCD services if their needs cannot be met within general dental practice, (the list is not exhaustive)

<p>Learning disability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple genetic and acquired causes • Autistic Spectrum Disorder • Down's syndrome • Fragile X syndrome • Rett syndrome • Angelman syndrome • Tuberous sclerosis 	<p>Physical /neurological disability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cerebral palsy • Multiple sclerosis • Parkinson's disease • Severe stroke • Advanced rheumatoid arthritis • Brain injury • Huntington's Disease
<p>Complex medical conditions</p> <p>Cardiovascular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angina • Heart failure • Uncontrolled hypertension <p>Respiratory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COPD • Severe asthma <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poorly controlled epilepsy • Unstable diabetes • Congenital bleeding disorders • Immune compromised • Multi system interlinked co-morbidities 	<p>Mental health conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychotic illness • Unstable psychiatric illness • Eating disorders • Dementia • Severe and enduring dental phobia <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frail older people • End of life care • Social exclusion