

Referral guidance for NHS GG&C PDS Special Care Dentistry (>16 years)

NHS GG&C PDS Special Care Dentistry
Tel: 0141 314 6669 for advice

The service

Special Care Dentistry is concerned with: “The improvement of oral health of individuals and groups in society who have a physical, sensory, intellectual, mental, medical, emotional or social impairment or disability or, more often, a combination of a number of these factors.” (Joint Advisory Committee for Special Care Dentistry, 2003).

The special care dental service provides oral healthcare for those patients who, for a variety of reasons require specialist management either exclusively, in conjunction with their general dental practitioner or on an occasional basis.

Some patients may have a diagnosis that does not impact directly on their dental health or care unless their condition progresses. As long as they continue to be well, they may continue to be managed in general dental practice. Where no special precautions are required to manage a patient, they should be managed in a general dental practice.

For some patients it is appropriate that their care is exclusively provided by a special care dental service. For others it may be possible to share care with their general dental practitioner. We also provide advice to general dental practitioners, general medical practitioners and hospital doctors and nursing staff.

Patients may require Special Care Dentistry to provide:

- advice
- a one-off treatment or course of treatment
- some of their care on an ongoing basis, sharing care with their GDP
all of their dental care

Treatment offered

Routine dental care as per the SDR

Shared care arrangements where specialist intervention is required for particular procedures

Patients referred for treatment under sedation will be offered one course of treatment. We are unable to provide molar endodontics (exceptional circumstances considered), regular hygiene phase therapy or advanced restorative care under sedation

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Referrals to the NHS GG&C Special Care Dentistry are considered for patients with the following additional care needs:

Access
Patients who require mechanical aids not normally available in general dental practice. Patients requiring routine treatment whose weight exceeds the maximum weight of the regular dental chair.
Physical disability
Disability creates barriers to care e.g. movement disorder, significant physical deformity.
Learning disability
Significant communication difficulties, co-operation compromised, sedation or general anaesthesia required for examination or any intervention.
Mental health problems
Long term in-patient, current admission requiring urgent/emergency care, significant mental health problems impacting on daily living which preclude attendance at a general dental practice.
Significant medical compromise
Current hospital in-patient requiring urgent/emergency care. ASA III or greater, treatment required in a hospital setting, or for treatment requiring medical intervention in a hospital setting prior to care. Dental/assessment treatment required prior to medical intervention as per prior arrangements with the special care department.
Care of the frail older person
Urgent/emergency care for those admitted to Care of the Elderly units. Routine care if admitted > 1 month. Routine care if this forms part of their rehabilitation.
Anxiety/behavioural management services
Patients other than ASA 1, Technique required beyond that available in General Dental Practice.

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Referrals are NOT accepted for:

ASA 1 patients for sedation

Patients with mild or moderate special care needs whose care can reasonably be delivered in a GDS setting. This includes patients requiring domiciliary care.

Patients taking anti-coagulants or anti-platelet drugs whose INR is maintained below 4 who have no other relevant medical complications.

See guidance: <http://www.sdcep.org.uk/published-guidance/anticoagulants-and-antiplatelets/>

Patients taking anti-resorptive drugs who have no other relevant medical complications.

See guidance: <http://www.sdcep.org.uk/published-guidance/medication-related-osteonecrosis-of-the-jaw/>

Before you refer your patient please ensure the following:

You complete all the mandatory fields on the SCI Gateway referral (highlighted in pink). All relevant information is required to enable the patient to be seen by the correct service in a timely manner. Good referral information will assist in this process.

If incomplete or inadequate referral information is forwarded, this may result in the referral being returned to the referrer, which will cause delays to treatment.

You confirm (on the referral form) all the necessary prevention and advice indicated in SDCEP guidance has been provided (or attempted) and you will provide continuing care for the patient irrespective of the referral (unless indicated or otherwise agreed following acceptance for treatment).

Discharge criteria

Patients whose care can be reasonably managed by a general dental practice will be discharged.