Guidelines for referral to

Solent NHS Trust

Special Care Dental Service

**Referring a patient to Solent NHS Trust Special Care Dental Service**

This guide is intended to assist with the appropriate referral of patients with special needs or those requiring specialist, occasional care to Solent NHS Trust Special Care Dental Service. Patients referred to this service must be registered with a GP in the Hampshire or Isle of Wight area (Southampton, Portsmouth, Isle of Wight, and the rest of Hampshire).

Solent NHS Trust Special Care Dental Service provides dental care for children and adults who have a special need including those with a physical, sensory, intellectual mental, medical, emotional or social impairment or disability or a combination of these that prevent them from accessing care through the General Dental Services.

It also provides specialist occasional care, supporting care in general dental practice by providing a single or staged course of treatment as part of a joint treatment plan with the referring dentist for patients who are unable to receive care in general dental practice due to medical, physical or behavioural difficulties. Patients will usually be seen for a course of treatment then will be discharged back to the General Dental Services unless it is necessary for continuing care to be provided in this service because of the patient’s special need or disability.

Treatment may be provided under local anaesthesia, inhalation sedation, intravenous sedation for adults, or general anaesthesia for children and adults with special needs. Please note general anaesthesia is not provided for routine dental care for adults without a special need.

For those who are housebound or frail elderly people a domiciliary service can be provided.

**Service Locations**

Services are provided at the following dental clinic locations:

**Southampton**

Bitterne; Pickles Coppice Millbrook; Royal South Hants Hospital

**Portsmouth**

Eastney; Gosport; Somerstown; Poswillo QA Hospital

**Hampshire**

Aldershot; Andover; Bramblys Grange Basingstoke; Eastleigh; Havant; Hythe; Petersfield

**Isle of Wight**

Cowes

Patients requiring a general anaesthetic following assessment will be treated at hospital locations including: - Southampton General Hospital, Portsmouth Hospital, Poswillo Dental Centre, Royal Hampshire County Hospital Winchester, North Hampshire Hospital Basingstoke, St Mary’s Hospital IOW.

**Referrals are accepted from:**

* Dental Practitioners
* General Medical Practitioners
* Any other Health or Social Care Professional
* Voluntary organisations and community groups
* Education / special schools

**Referral forms**

When making a referral, please use the referral forms attached. These can be copied as required or you can use an electronic version. If you require an electronic version, please telephone us on 0300 300 2014 Option 3 or e-mail [SNHS.CentralPointofReferral@nhs.net](mailto:SNHS.CentralPointofReferral@nhs.net)

Using these forms ensures that we have all the relevant information that we require to process your referral in a timely manner. If any part of the form is incomplete the referral will be returned for completion and this could result in a delay in your patient being seen.



**General information**

Please inform the patient:

* The reason why you are making the referral
* That their initial appointment will usually be for an assessment only
* NHS dental charges apply (unless the patient is exempt)

**Referrals for treatment under general anaesthesia**

Treatment under general anaesthesia for children and adults with special needs will only be considered as a last resort when treatment under local anaesthesia or conscious sedation is not feasible or appropriate.

**Referral criteria**

Referrals are accepted for children and adults with special care needs or those requiring specialist occasional care who cannot be managed by a General Dental Practitioner.

This includes children with:

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| Learning disabilities | Severe mental health problems |
| Behavioural/management problems | Child protection issues or looked after children |
| Severe physical disabilities | Medical special needs |
| Autism Spectrum disorders | Special dental conditions e.g. Amelogenesis Imperfecta, Dentinogenesis Imperfecta, and Hypodontia |
| Treatment required as a result of serious dental trauma if not manageable in General Practice | Extensive decay in multiple teeth in more than one quadrant where treatment has proved unsuccessful under local anaesthesia |

and adults with:

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| --- | --- |
| Learning disabilities/challenging behaviour | Medical special needs that would not normally be treated in General Dental services e.g. severe bleeding disorders, life limiting conditions, severely Immunocompromised or Immunosuppressed |
| Autism Spectrum disorders | Brain injuries |
| Severe mental health problems | Those who have undergone head and neck Radiotherapy |
| Severe physical problems and those who are frail/elderly or housebound and require domiciliary care | Severe or debilitating dental phobia where specific treatment (fillings and extractions) has not been possible to complete under local anaesthesia, because of the phobia (not the complexity of the treatment) |

**Referrals are not accepted for:**

* Nervous or apprehensive adults without a special need
* Children requiring extractions for orthodontic purposes (except in exceptional circumstances)
* Adults requesting a general anaesthetic who do not meet the criteria for special needs
* On the grounds of financial hardship

**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](mailto:SNHS.CentralPointofReferral@nhs.net)