

**Referral Criteria for Patients requiring Special Care Dentistry at Bristol Dental Hospital**

Referrals for patients with additional needs requiring Special Care Dentistry (SCD), including those who are significantly medically compromised, should be addressed to:

**Dr Victoria Swan, Consultant in Special Care Dentistry**

**Dr Jessica Mann, Consultant in Special Care Dentistry**

The Special Care Dentistry team provide comprehensive care for patients with a wide range of complex additional needs that seriously affect the provision of dental care.

Patients accepted for treatment within the department may receive a full course of treatment, certain elements of care (e.g. exodontia) or single items of treatment, in conjunction with the primary care referrer.

Generally, patients are not accepted for long term care within Bristol Dental Hospital (BDH) and where possible there should be a shared care with their primary care provider, either the referring General Dental Practitioner (GDP) or Primary Care Dental Service (PCDS).

The referring clinician continues to be responsible for urgent dental care, preventive care/advice (as per Delivering Better Oral Health v3 2014) and subsequent monitoring. Once the patient’s treatment has been completed, they will be discharged to either their referring dentist, asked to find a local dentist or referred to Primary Care Dental services if deemed eligible.

**If they then require future dental treatment at BDH, a further referral will be required.**

Acceptance of a patient for an item or a course of treatment does not guarantee that treatment will be carried out by a specific grade (or member) of staff. The Special Care Department is involved in the Specialist training programme and the patient may be treated by a Specialist training registrar / specialty doctor under the supervision of a Consultant in Special Care Dentistry.

**Acceptance Criteria – please note we only accept Adult patients (age 16 and above)**

*(Children with additional needs will need to be referred to either the Primary Care dental service/ Paediatric dental department at the BDH)*

The following priority patient groups will be considered for acceptance for opinion/treatment:

* Patients with **unstable medical conditions (ASA III/IV),** and where care cannot be safely provided in Primary Care Services.
* Patients with **severe learning disabilities or dementia** (24/7 care) where dental treatment cannot be carried out in Primary Care (may require general anaesthetic (GA) or sedation)
* Patients with **complex medical conditions**, where dental management requires close liaison with medical specialties, where this is not possible in primary care (e.g. patients with moderate/ severe haemophilia).
* Patients with **severe physical, neurological and/or movement disabilities** (e.g. Cerebral palsy, Parkinson’s disease), where treatment is not possible in primary care.
* **Adults with complex behavioural and psychiatric problems:** Uncontrolled, unstable mental health issues this may include risk of harm to healthcare workers and require sedation/ GA for dental treatment.
* **Bariatric patients:** patients who exceed the safe weight limit of dental chair and may require use of the Bariatric dental chair (those weighing over 23 stone), and have medical problems which cannot be managed in primary care (e.g. limited mobility, large wheelchairs or difficulty transferring to the dental chair).
* **Patients with complex needs who require comprehensive dental treatment under**

**general anaesthesia** e.g. patients with profound learning disabilities (and

occasionally, patients with severe mental ill health or physical disabilities) who

cannot be managed appropriately with local anaesthesia or sedation.

* Patients who have a proven, or suspicion of, **immediate Type I allergic reaction to**

**substances that may affect the provision of dental care**, e.g. natural rubber latex,

where the patient may develop a life-threatening anaphylaxis.

* Referrals from tertiary providers for patients requiring a dental screen prior to either:
  + **Bone Marrow / stem cell transplant**
  + **Cardiac surgery**

There may be some instances where we are unable to provide comprehensive treatment to the above criteria group i.e. If they require inpatient/ tertiary care. There may also be a decision made that dental treatment is not considered in the patients’ best interests at that time. If this is the case a “palliative dental treatment plan” may be put in place for the patient and may need to be regularly reviewed.

We would ask that GDPs looking to refer to Special Care Dentistry consider a referral to Primary Care Dental services (PCDS) in the first instance: Please use link below to access PCDS form:

[nhs-england-south-west-referral-form-request-for-assessment-of-patients-with-additional-needs-v1.docx (live.com)](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.england.nhs.uk%2Fsouth%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2Fsites%2F6%2F2019%2F06%2Fnhs-england-south-west-referral-form-request-for-assessment-of-patients-with-additional-needs-v1.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

If they are accepted, they can carry out an Oral health assessment for the patient, and may well be able to provide the necessary treatment under local anaesthetic/ sedation if appropriate. If the treatment cannot be carried out in Primary Care, they will do an onwards referral to the Special Care department at BDH under a “shared Care” pathway.

**Exclusion Criteria:**

Please note, we are unable to accept:

* Patients with blood borne viruses (e.g. HIV, hepatitis B and C), whose medical

status does not warrant dental management in secondary care.

* Restorative dental care in patients with dental anxiety or phobia, who are fit and

healthy or have stable medical conditions: you are advised to undertake an intra-primary care referral if sedation is required.

* Patients with complex medical issues/polypharmacy which do not affect the

provision of primary dental care.

* Patients with problems with positioning/sitting in the dental chair, where sedation

or additional equipment is of no value.

* Those patients who could have treatment in a primary care service and require

ambulance transport.

* Restorative treatment under general anaesthesia for patients with dental

anxiety/phobia.

* Patients requiring domiciliary dental care.
* Please note we do not accept self-referrals from patients.