

**GuidANCE for referral to**

**SPECIAL cARE DENTISTRY Community DENTAL SERVICE**

**for Adults and Children**

**by non-dENTAL Health and Social Care Professionals**

1. **Introduction**

This guide is intended to assist Health and Social Care Professionals in the South West. with the appropriate referral of patients with additional needs and those requiring special care dentistry. Please note that if your referral does not meet the Special Care and Community Dental Service criteria the patient will not be accepted for treatment

Before you send a referral to special care community dental services 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 find out more or require further guidance/information, please contact your local service first by email. Contact details can be found at the end of guide.

Following treatment, a decision will be made regarding the need for the patient to be retained within the service for continuing care. Some patients will be discharged at the end of their treatment and they will be required and supported to find a local NHS dentist or signposted via the Helpline telephone service on telephone number 111.

1. **Acceptance Criteria**

**Referrals on the Non-GDP form are accepted from:**

* General Medical Practitioners
* Any other Health or Social Care Professional
* Voluntary organisations and community groups
* Education Professionals

Patients referred to this service must be registered with a General Medical Practitioner in the South West.

**Patient information**

The patients who we look after must require special care dentistry and must have a severe or complex 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.

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

Treatment may be provided under local anaesthesia, inhalation sedation, intravenous sedation or where appropriate, general anaesthesia.

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

All care is provided under the NHS regulations and private care dentistry will not be provided.

1. **SAFEGUARDING**

All healthcare professionals contribute towards safeguarding children by working with social care and other agencies as set out in the overarching guide [Working Together to Safeguard Children](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2). Please include any relevant safeguarding information in the referral form if a child has been identified as at risk or maltreated, e.g. children who are undergoing medical examination for suspected neglect; children subject to a child protection plan; some looked after children (annual dental visits for looked after children are a requirement and are already subject to monitoring). Please specifically state if the patient is a Looked after Child with enhanced needs (social, behavioural, medical) as identified through medical Initial Health Assessment. [See Paediatric Dentistry Clinical Standard](https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/paediatric-dentistry/) for further reference.

1. **Additional information for Dental Phobia**

The principles on which patients will be accepted to the Specialist CDS are that they should have Additional Needs (refer to Appendix 1).

Referrals will not be accepted on this form for anxious patients who do not have an Additional Need or who require minor oral surgery procedures including extraction only treatment plans.

1. **Additional information for Home Visits**

Referrals will only be accepted 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 distressed behaviour.

1. **Bariatric Services**

Patients weighing in excess of the weight limit of an average dental chair in a general dental practice (limits vary from 21 stone - 28 stone) and therefore cannot be treated in general practice may be referred. However, not all service sites have bariatric facilities and as such the patient may need to travel to a suitable location for treatment.

1. **Completing and Sending a Referral**

**Please complete all parts of the form**

Please note

* Forms must be completed legibly and with all sections completed.
* Forms not completed will be returned to the person who made the referral. This will delay patient care.
* Please ensure the patient and/or advocate/main carer has been informed of the reasons for this referral. If a patient has a power of attorney in place, please ensure this is included in the information provided on the referral form.
* 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 provider will be done so in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018.

**Please send referral to:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Area** | **Telephone** | **Details** |
| Cornwall | 01872 226700 | ciosicb.rmsdentalreferrals@nhs.net |
| Plymouth | 01752 434664 | [livewell.referralsplymouthcommunitydentistry@nhs.net](mailto:livewell.referralsplymouthcommunitydentistry@nhs.net) |
| Torbay | 01803 217777 | [sdc-dental.t-sd@nhs.net](mailto:sdc-dental.t-sd@nhs.net) |
| Devon (excluding Plymouth and Torbay) | 01392 405718  01271 370562 | [rduh.sds-referral@nhs.net](mailto:rduh.sds-referral@nhs.net) |
| Somerset | 0300 124 0426 | [spn-tr.somersetdentalspa@nhs.net](mailto:spn-tr.somersetdentalspa@nhs.net) |
| BNSSG & BaNES | 0117 342 9582/83 | Post: Patient Access Team, Bristol Dental Hospital, Chapter House, Lower Maudlin Street, Bristol, BS1 2LY |
| Wiltshire and Swindon | 0345 758 1926 | [gwh.dentaladmin.teamoffice@nhs.net](mailto:gwh.dentaladmin.teamoffice@nhs.net) |
| Gloucestershire | 0300 421 8100 | <https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/gloucestershire-specialist-dental-service/> |
| Dorset | 0300 124 0427 | [spn-tr.dorsetdentalspa@nhs.net](mailto:spn-tr.dorsetdentalspa@nhs.net) |

**Appendix 1: List of conditions relevant to Specialist Community Dental Services**

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 Provider if their needs cannot be met within general dental practice (this list is not exhaustive).

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| --- | --- |
| **Learning disability**   * Multiple genetic and acquired causes * Down syndrome * Fragile X syndrome * Rett syndrome * Angelman syndrome * Tuberous sclerosis | **Physical /neurological conditions**   * Cerebral palsy * Multiple sclerosis * Parkinson’s disease * Severe stroke * Advanced rheumatoid arthritis * Brain injury * Huntington’s Disease |
| **Complex medical conditions**  **Cardiovascular:**   * Unstable Angina * Heart failure * Uncontrolled hypertension   **Respiratory:**   * COPD * Severe asthma   **Other:**   * Poorly controlled epilepsy * Unstable diabetes * Congenital bleeding disorders * Immune compromised * Multi system interlinked co-morbidities | **Neurodiverse conditions**   * Autism Spectrum Disorder |
| **Other**   * Frail older people * End of life care |
| **Mental health conditions**   * Psychotic illness * Unstable psychiatric illness * Eating disorders * Dementia * Severe and enduring dental phobia |