About your referral

Your dentist has referred you to the Dental Hospital which is a referral advice and specialist treatment centre and a teaching facility for dental students.

If you need to have treatment, it will be carried out by the most appropriate person for that care.

If the treatment required could be done in primary dental care i.e. outside the dental hospital, you may be referred back to your dentist or, in some circumstances, given the option of being treated by a dental student.

Why have I been referred to the Dental Hospital?

Your dentist has referred you for any one of the following reasons...

- a second opinion so that he or she can be sure you receive the appropriate treatment if your case is a little more difficult than routine
- treatment if this is may be required by someone who has been trained further e.g. specialist
- possible opportunities for treatment by a dental trainee (undergraduate or postgraduate)

Make sure that you are clear why you are being referred
**What happens next?**

You will be sent a letter to confirm that you wish to be seen at the Dental Hospital. You should receive this letter within approximately 4 weeks of being referred by your dentist. The letter explains how we will arrange to book your appointment.

If you have not received this letter within 4 weeks please contact your dentist or the Dental Hospital.

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**What will happen at my appointment?**

You will receive a thorough examination and assessment. It is possible you may need to have further tests carried out e.g. radiographs (X-rays), blood tests.

**It is unlikely any treatment other than addressing any pain will be carried out at your first visit.**

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**What if I can’t attend the appointment?**

You should telephone 0191 282 0603 as soon as possible to cancel your appointment. You will then receive a new appointment.

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**What if I miss an appointment?**

If you miss an appointment, you will not automatically be sent another appointment.

If you and your dentist still think you need to be referred, your dentist will need to write again requesting an appointment and it is possible you will be put at the end of the waiting list.

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**Where can I find further information about the Dental Hospital?**

Further information may be obtained from the website [www.newcastle-hospitals.org.uk](http://www.newcastle-hospitals.org.uk)

For independent dental advice you can contact…
The British Dental Health Foundation helpline 0845 063 1188 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday or visit [www.dentalhelpline.org.uk](http://www.dentalhelpline.org.uk)
Information for parents and guardians

Referral to the Dental Hospital (for a child or minor)

This leaflet will tell you…

- About your young person referral
- Why your dentist has referred your young person
- About your young person’s appointment
- Where you can find further information about the Dental Hospital and independent advice

This leaflet is available in large print on request please contact 0191 219 5209

About your young person’s referral

Your dentist has referred your child or minor (hereafter referred to as young person) to the Dental Hospital which is a specialist centre providing dental treatment for children. We offer both an opinion and treatment service.

If your young person needs to have treatment, it will be carried out by the most appropriate person for that care. Treatment is undertaken by staff and dental students. Treatment may be completed under local anaesthetic, sedation or general anaesthetic.

If the treatment required could be done in primary dental care i.e. outside the dental hospital, your young person may be referred back to your dentist or, in some circumstances, given the option of being treated by a dental student.

Why have we been referred to the Dental Hospital?

Your dentist has referred your young person for any one of the following reasons…

- a second opinion so that he or she can be sure your young person receives the appropriate treatment if your young person’s case is a little more difficult than routine
- treatment if this is required by someone who has been trained further e.g. specialist
- possible opportunities for treatment by a dental trainee (undergraduate or postgraduate)
- treatment under sedation or general anaesthetic
Make sure that you are clear why your young person is being referred

**What happens next?**

You will be sent a letter to confirm that your young person is to be seen at the Dental Hospital. You should receive this letter within 4 weeks of being referred by your dentist.

**What should I do before my young person’s appointment?**

It is very important your young person attends with someone who can give all the details of your young person’s medical history and details of any medication they are taking.

It is also important the young person attends with someone with parental responsibility.

**What will happen at my young person’s appointment?**

Your young person will receive a thorough examination and assessment.

It is possible your young person may need to have further tests carried out e.g. radiographs, blood tests.

**It is unlikely any treatment other than addressing any pain will be carried out at your young person’s first visit.**

Please note the assessment may take 2-3 hours, as this is a teaching hospital and your young person may be seen by one or more clinician’s and students.

**What if we can’t attend the appointment?**

You should telephone 0191 282 0603 as soon as possible to cancel your appointment. You will then receive a new appointment.

**What if we miss an appointment?**

If you miss an appointment, your young person will not automatically be sent another appointment.

Your dentist will be sent a letter to inform them that you and your young person failed to attend the appointment.

If you and your dentist still think your young person needs to be referred, your dentist will need to write again requesting an appointment and it is possible your young person will be put at the end of the waiting list.

**Where can I find further information about the Dental Hospital?**

Further information may be obtained from the website www.newcastle-hospitals.org.uk

For independent dental advice you can contact...
The British Dental Health Foundation helpline ☎:0845 063 1188 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday or visit www.dentalhelpline.org.uk