

**Guidelines for referral to Community Dental Service**

**by Family, Carers and Supporters and Health and Social Care Professionals (SOMERSET)**

1. **Introduction**

This guide is intended to assist with the appropriate referral of patients with additional needs and those requiring specialist community dental services (CDS) by Family, Carers and Supporters and Health and Social Care Professionals in Somerset.

Before you send a referral to our service 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 speak to a dentist or require further information before making this referral please call our Single Point of Referral Centre on 0300 1237691. An answer phone is in operation when the service is not manned.

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 supported to find a local NHS dentist or signposted via the Helpline telephone service on Tel no. 111.

1. **Acceptance Criteria**

**Referrals on Form C (Somerset) are accepted from:**

* General Medical Practitioners
* Any other Health or Social Care Professional
* Voluntary organisations and community groups
* Education Professionals
* Families, carers, self-referral where appropriate

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

**Patient information**

The patients who we look after must require a Specialist Community Dental Service and must have a severe 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 our 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 we do not offer private dental care.

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 Form C 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**

Specialist CDS are only able to accept referrals 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, confinement to bed or severe agitation for dental appointments due to challenging behaviour.

1. **Bariatric Services**

Patients weighing over 21 stone and whom cannot be treated in general practice may be referred.

1. **Completing and Sending a Referral**

**Please complete all parts of Form C**

Please note

* Forms must be completed legibly and with all sections completed.
* Forms not completed will be returned to the referrer. This will delay patient care.
* Please ensure the patient and/or advocate/main carer has been informed of the reasons for this referral.
* 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 Trust will be done so in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018.

**Please send referral to:**

**Post:**

Single Point of Access, Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, Southwood House, 2-4 Taunton Road, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 3LS

Or

**E-mail**

[Spn-tr.SomersetDentalSPA@nhs.net](mailto:Spn-tr.SomersetDentalSPA@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 CDS 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 * Autistic Spectrum Disorder * Down’s syndrome * Fragile X syndrome * Rett syndrome * Angelman syndrome * Tuberous sclerosis | **Physical /neurological disability**   * Cerebral palsy * Multiple sclerosis * Parkinson’s disease * Severe stroke * Advanced rheumatoid arthritis * Brain injury * Huntington’s Disease |
| **Complex medical conditions**  **Cardiovascular:**   * 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 | **Mental health conditions**   * Psychotic illness * Unstable psychiatric illness * Eating disorders * Dementia * Severe and enduring dental phobia |
| **Other**   * Frail older people * End of life care * Social exclusion |