



Supporting Dental Visits to the Community Dental Service

Providing dental treatment for our patients can be very challenging and we value your support and assistance. The following are ways that you the you can help to ensure that each dental visit is a successful one.

It would be very helpful if you could help us in the following ways:

- Please ensure that carers attend with an **up to date medical history** for the client and are aware of any on-going medical/hospital treatment.
- Please ensure that **the carer who attends is fully aware that the patient will have to pay for their dental treatment unless they can show evidence of exemption from NHS dental charges. Please bring the evidence with you.** The carer will need to sign the blue PR on the client's behalf to confirm this exemption (if the client is unable to do so) as we are unable to proceed to examination and treatment without a signed form. They need to be sure of the exemption status as, if it is checked and there is an error, the person who signs is liable to pay a fine.
- Finally, it is very helpful if **a carer attends with the client who is familiar to them** and can report any changes in behaviour which might indicate a dental problem. This is also very helpful so that the patient feels supported which can enable the dentist to get a much better examination or treatment done.

It is important that you provide your support workers/residents with the above information on every dental attendance. The medical history ensures the patient's safety during treatment and without the exemption status the patient may be requested to pay or be refused treatment until their exemption status can be confirmed. Enclosed is an information leaflet which summarises NHS dental treatment charges and categories of benefit which would enable the patient to receive dental treatment without charge. If the patient does not qualify for exemption there will be a charge which will be invoiced.

Thank you for your assistance in fully preparing your support workers in bringing clients for dental visits. This will enable us to make the most of each dental visit and thus reduce waiting times for your clients in the future.

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Date of Issue	01.06.2016	Purpose	Carers / patients
Location	CDS shared\patient information\Carer info\dental visit advice	Page	Page 1 of 1