

Do You Have a Dental Problem?



Q) Why has my GP told me they cannot prescribe for dental problems?

In Law only a registered dentist can practice dentistry ([The Dentists Act 1984](#)). Dentists are highly trained specialists with expert knowledge.

Your GP does not have the expert knowledge to diagnose and treat dental conditions, so GPs should not prescribe in dental infections but refer to a dentist. This ensures that you are able to get the correct diagnosis and then receive the most appropriate treatment as advised by the specialist in dental conditions.

Q) What do I do if I am not sure if the problem is a dental problem?

If you are unsure if your problem is a dental problem or something else then a GP can carry out an assessment of your condition. If the GP assess the problem has a dental cause they will then advise you make an appointment with a dentist. If it is a medical rather than dental problem then this will be addressed.

Q) I am not able to find an NHS dentist and I cannot afford private treatment, what should I do?

There are a number of options you can try:

- NHS Choices provide information about services and conditions online at www.nhs.uk
- Contact NHS England for a current list of dentists accepting NHS patients (england.dentaleast@nhs.net)
- NHS 111 (call 111) or online at www.111.nhs.uk. NHS 111 are able to triage and refer you onto a dental service if needed.

Q) What should I do in an emergency out of hours?

Contact NHS 111(call 111). NHS 111 are able to triage and refer you onto a dental service if needed.

Q) I have seen a dentist and have been prescribed medication, can I get ongoing supplies from my doctor?

No. GPs should not be involved in dental prescribing. Medicines for dental conditions should be prescribed by a dentist who can manage your oral health. The dentist is the most appropriate clinician to monitor and assess both the benefits and unwanted effects of any treatment and manage dental conditions.

Title	Patient Information Leaflet – Dental problems
References	N/A
Acknowledgements	West Essex CCG
Version	1
Author	Medicines Management Team
Approved by	Basildon and Brentwood CCG: Prescribing Subgroup, Patient Quality and Safety Committee, Board Thurrock CCG: Medicines Management and Safety Group, Patient Quality and Safety Committee, Transformation and Sustainability Committee, Board
Date Approved	January 2019
Review Date	December 2020