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Does my dentist know?

We will tell your dentist about your examination before the appointment. We always ask patients if they are happy for their dentist to attend.

You can expect all examinations to be handled in a professional manner.



Can I continue with the dental treatment?

Your dentist will not carry out any routine treatment until after your examination.

It is important that when we examine your teeth they are in the same state as they were at your last dental appointment.

If you need emergency dental treatment before your examination your dentist will provide treatment only to relieve pain. They will give us the details and then continue with any other treatment you need soon after the examination.



We aim to minimise waiting times, however, these can vary depending on circumstances.

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Your commitment

By attending your appointment, you are helping to maintain the standard of your dental treatment provided in NHS Scotland.



Did you know?

Each time you visit your dentist you are asked to sign a form for the treatment you receive. When you do this, you are agreeing to have an examination by a dental reference officer, if necessary.

We have shown this part of the dental form here:

Part 7 PATIENT'S DECLARATION ON COMPLETION

(to be completed and signed by, or on behalf of the patient)

I confirm that I have had all the treatment that I am willing to have and, if invited by the Scottish Dental Reference Service, will attend for an examination by another dentist.

If prior approval is needed and you do not attend your examination, we will not be able to approve your treatment.

Phone us on 0845 712 5449 to confirm your appointment or to arrange a different one.

Our friendly staff will offer you any help and advice you need.

This publication can be made available in community languages, **large print**, audio tape or Braille.



Please call **0345 712 5449**

It is also available download at www.nss.nhs.scot

Scottish Dental Reference Service



Monitoring the standard and quality of NHS dental treatment for you and your family

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Quality service

The Scottish Dental Reference Service is made up of a small team of NHS dentists who help to monitor the standard and quality of NHS dental treatment.

We must make sure that your NHS dental treatment is carried out to a satisfactory standard. We do this by checking that the treatment your dentist wants to do is appropriate and that any treatment you have received was satisfactory.

We inspect your mouth either before treatment is carried out or after you have received treatment. Please read the section called 'What will the examination involve' for more on this.

Your examination will be carried out by an experienced NHS dentist who will provide an assessment of the health of your teeth and gums. You can ask for a copy of the report.

Contact us:

email: nss.sdrs@nhs.scot

0345 712 5449 (charged at the local rate).

Scottish Dental Reference Service
NHS National Services Scotland
1 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 9EB



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Why me?

We chose your name because you have recently had, or are about to have, NHS dental treatment.

Every year we examine a number of patients of every NHS dentist.

What will the examination involve?

A qualified NHS dental reference officer will examine your mouth and provide an assessment of the health of your teeth and gums. No treatment will be given at the appointment.

If your dentist wants to provide a fairly extensive course of treatment, at the examination we will assess whether that treatment is the most appropriate. So you will not be able to have the treatment until after the examination.

If your examination is after your treatment, we would like to find out if it was satisfactory and of good quality.

Please be reassured that if you are in pain, your dentist may provide pain relief. Your new course of treatment can commence immediately after the examination, unless prior approval is required.

If you need help with any decisions, please contact us.



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How long will it take?

We aim for your examination to take, on average, just:

15 minutes

Where will the appointment be?

We use clinics all over the country.

We will arrange your appointment at a clinic convenient to you.

Please tell us whether you would prefer a town closer to where you work, rather than where you live, by calling us on 08457 125449.

Can I claim travel expenses?

You can claim reasonable expenses for travel to and from our clinic. We do not provide transport.

When you attend your appointment you can request a claim form for your travel costs. In certain circumstances, you may claim travel expenses for someone who has accompanied you.

