

Management of Dental Pain

Introduction

The Covid-19 pandemic has placed unprecedented pressures on NHS services. Patients waiting for elective services such as dental extractions, are having to wait longer than anticipated. We understand this situation is less than ideal and appreciate your patience. We have written this document to help answer some questions you may have whilst your child is waiting for surgery.

Guidance for Patients

- Maintain good oral hygiene by brushing your child's teeth twice a day for two minutes, in the morning and before bed, with fluoride toothpaste and avoiding rinsing after brushing.
- Make sure your child sees their local dentist for regular check-ups whilst waiting for an appointment at Alder Hey.
- Manage toothache with paracetamol and ibuprofen (unless your child has been told not to take these medicines). These medicines are available at your local pharmacy or supermarket, and you should follow the instructions for dosage for your child's age for that medicine.
- Ice packs can be used to help relieve pain and reduce swelling.

What should I do if my health is deteriorating?

If your child's pain is no longer being effectively managed by over-the-counter painkillers such as paracetamol or if they have facial swelling, you should contact your own dentist for advice in the first instance or if your child is not registered with a dentist, then please call the emergency dental services on 0161 476 9651.

If your child develops:

- Swellings visible around the neck or inside the mouth that have begun to feel firm rather than soft
- Swellings that are beginning to close your child's eye
- Swellings that are rapidly increasing in size

or if your child's condition is worsening and they have become generally unwell, you should bring them to A&E.

Please note that dental pain with no accompanying swelling does not constitute an emergency and patients presenting to A&E may not be seen and may instead be directed to their dentist or emergency dental services.

My Planned Care Patient Information Platform

Contact Us

Paediatric Dental Secretaries

Phone Line opening hours: Monday – Friday 09:00- 17:00

0151 252 5563

Emergency Dental Services

0161 476 9651