

Oral Surgery – Surgical Removal of Tooth

Introduction

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the NHS ability to provide routine elective services. We recognise that patients are waiting longer than we would all like and it is not always possible to identify when treatment will take place. We know that it can be very difficult for many people who are waiting.

The NHS is working hard to see people as quickly as possible, but it is going to take a while before waiting times are back down to where there were before the Covid-19 pandemic began in the UK in early 2020.

This document provides you with information on how you can support yourself while waiting to attend the hospital. The guidance has been written by clinicians who are responsible for your care.

Oral Surgery deals with the diagnosis and management of pathology of the mouth and jaws that requires surgical intervention. Oral Surgery involves the treatment of children, adolescents and adults, and the management of dentally anxious and medically complex patients.

Your consultant will discuss with you at your outpatient appointment if you require a tooth to be surgically removed.

Guidance for Patients

Whilst you are waiting for your surgical extraction depending on your oral needs, the following steps may vary. If your regular dentist cannot see you or you don't have a dentist, an emergency dentist (via 111) will do everything they can to help you the same or next day.

Many mild toothaches are caused by food caught between teeth. Before calling an emergency dentist, gently floss to remove any trapped food particles that could be causing pain and rinse with warm water.

If the toothache persists, call 111 as soon as possible and take over-the-counter pain relievers until your appointment. DO NOT put crushed aspirin on your tooth as this burns gums and destroys tooth enamel.

There are some numbing agents you can use to help alleviate pain until you see a dentist. Numbing agents with benzocaine should not be used for children or infant toothaches though.

My Planned Care Patient Information Platform

If you experience tooth pain throughout the night, try to keep your head elevated. Keeping your head up can help ease the pain while you fall asleep and can make it less painful while you are awake.

What should I do if my health is deteriorating?

Urgent Health Advice

For urgent health advice about physical or mental health, when it's not an emergency, please call 111 from any landline or mobile phone. You can also visit www.nhs.uk. The NHS 111 service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Life Threatening Emergencies

For something life threatening – severe bleeding, breathing difficulties or chest pains – please dial 999.

Dental surgeries

Dental surgeries are still open and are working differently to how they did before the COVID-19 pandemic. Dental practice staff are also helping patients to manage their conditions at home while they wait for hospital appointments.

A dental emergency can cover a broad range of complaints, including:

Severe dental pain – if you are in severe dental pain an emergency dental appointment could provide the necessary care to relieve your dental pain.

Uncontrolled Bleeding from the mouth – uncontrolled bleeding from the mouth is considered a dental emergency and you should see your dentist as soon as possible.

Infection – an abscess in the mouth is considered a dental emergency as a serious infection could be lifethreatening. If you are experiencing swelling in or around your mouth or you have difficulty swallowing, you should speak to your dentist immediately.

You should contact a dentist if you are unsure about any of the above symptoms you are experiencing.

Contact Us

Ear Nose and Throat Specialty Administration Teams: -

Grimsby – SAT 2 email: nlg-tr.SAT2@nhs.net

telephone number: 03033 306530 Option 2

Scunthorpe – SAT 5 email: nlg-tr.SAT5@nhs.net

telephone number: 03033 306533 Option 2

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