

**Pharmacy Optometry Dentistry (POD)
Commissioning Team**

NHS Kent and Medway
2nd floor
Gail House
Lower Stone Street
Maidstone
ME15 6NB

Sent via email

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Dear General Dental Practitioners,

Email: kmicb.pod@nhs.net

Revised Communication to Kent General Dental Practitioners

Following recent feedback from General Dental Practitioners and Tier 2 Minor Oral (IMOS) Surgery Providers the Commissioners would like to offer further clarification regarding the pathway for Tier 2 IMOS referrals and subsequent treatment provision.

Clarification on Rejected Tier 2 IMOS referrals:

A Tier 2 IMOS referral maybe rejected for one of two main reasons:

1. Insufficient information to allow appropriate triage

This may include the absence of a diagnostic quality radiograph or other essential clinical details. In this case the referral should be resubmitted with the required information.

2. The referral does not meet Tier 2 clinical complexity criteria

In cases where the clinical complexity is considered Tier 1 and there is no relevant medical complexity, the responsibility for arranging and providing care remains with the referring General Dental Practitioner. This includes addressing immediate pain by, for example, incision and drainage or extirpation if necessary.

Expectations of Tier 1 extractions

Tier 1 extractions fall within the scope of the General Dental Practitioner and should be offered within the general dental setting.

If the patient was receiving NHS care at the time of the referral (i.e. there was an open NHS course of treatment) they should be given the necessary care and treatment that they are willing to undergo within NHS arrangements to secure their oral health. Private

options for treatment can be offered as part of the consent process, but it must be the patient's choice whether they elect NHS or Private options after being fully informed of each.

If you are unable to complete the Tier 1 extraction yourself, you have the following options:

Appeal to Tier 2 IMOS Provider, outlining the specific reason an onward referral is required.

Arrange to treat the patient yourself with or without the support of a mentor, where appropriate.

Arrange for a colleague within your practice to complete the treatment under the same course of NHS treatment. As a reminder, patients cannot be charged again simply because they are seeing a different performer.

As above, patients may choose to be referred on a private basis if they prefer.

Knowledge and Skills

Dentists are reminded that updating their knowledge and skills is part of the GDCs Professional Standards and there are many courses available to support the development of tier 1 oral surgery skills and confidence where this is a barrier to delivering care.

There are a number of useful resources available to support dental practitioners with decision making and treatment and we particularly wish to highlight:

- Guidance for the management of patients taking anticoagulants Anticoagulants and antiplatelets | Scottish Dental Clinical
- Guidance for risk assessment and management of patients taking bisphosphonates or other medications which increase the risk of MRONJ SDCEP MRONJ guidance in brief - extant 2024

Yours sincerely

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