

NHS Orthodontic Referral Guidelines

This orthodontic referral proforma is to help you decide which patient needs a referral for NHS orthodontic treatment and which provider is the most suitable. All NHS referrals must be on this form, although you may attach a letter providing further details if you wish. This proforma is based around the "need" of the patient for orthodontic treatment.

S = Specialist practice (may include DwSI) **H = Hospital service** (see provider sheet)

- 1) **Overjet:** measured from the most prominent of the four incisors.
Action- if >6mm but <10mm, refer to **S**. If >10mm refer to **S** or **H**
- 2) **Reverse overjet:**
Action - Edge to edge to -1mm refer to **S**. If > -1mm, refer to **H**
- 3) **Traumatic overbite:** increased complete overbite with signs of trauma to the labial or palatal tissues.
Action- refer to **S** or **H**
- 4) **Open bites Ant/Post:** >4m.
Action - if linked to a digit habit refer to **S**. If not, refer to **H**
- 5) **Ant/ Post X bite with displacement:** mandibular displacement from RCP to ICP greater than 2mm.
Action - refer to **S**
- 6) **Crowded / Malaligned Teeth:**
Action - refer to **S**
- 7) **Missing teeth:** this relates to:
 - a) Hypodontia congenitally absent teeth commonly, upper laterals or second premolars (third molars do not count)
 - b) Avulsed teeth or inappropriate extractions (e.g. space remaining due to early loss of one or more first molars)Action - refer to **S** unless severe hypodontia, then refer to **H**
- 8) **Presence of supernumerary teeth:** Extra teeth causing a problem.
Action - refer to **S** or **H**
- 9) **Impacted teeth:** a) simple tipped teeth causing food packing b) moderate /severe impactions, including impeded eruption – not enough room for a tooth to erupt c) impacted or palatal canines - if the maxillary canines cannot be palpated in the buccal sulcus by age 9-10 years, they may be ectopic and further investigations should be carried out.
Action - if a) refer to **S**, if b) refer to **S** or **H**, if c) refer to **S** or **H**
- 10) **Submerged deciduous teeth:** adjacent teeth grossly tipped towards each other, premolar impacted or missing.
Action - refer to **S**
- 11) **Aesthetic impairment:** in a select number of cases treatment may be justifiable on grounds of "aesthetic impairment". If you feel this is the case then the patient should be referred for a specialist opinion, but warned that treatment may not be available on the NHS.
Action - refer to **S**
- 12) **Possible surgical case:** for severe skeletal discrepancy, defects of cleft lip palate, craniofacial anomalies.
Action - refer to **H**
- 13) **GDP opinion:** where a GDP has real concerns regarding an individual patient then a referral for a specialist opinion remains entirely appropriate.
Action- refer to **S**
- 14) **Patient over 18 :-**
Action - for orthodontics only refer to **S** (private) or if for (9b), (12) above then refer to **H** (NHS).

In addition, patients referred for orthodontic treatment should be dentally fit and have good oral hygiene.