

**To all Northern Ireland:**

- General Dental Practitioners;
- CDS Clinical Directors (for cascade to all Community Dentists);

**Tel : 028 95362560**

**Web Site :**

[www.hscboard.hscni.net](http://www.hscboard.hscni.net)

**Email:**

**Michael.Donaldson@hscni.net**

**14 January 2016**

Dear Colleague,

**Referral Criteria for Dental Implants at the Belfast Dental Hospital**

I am writing to clarify the referral criteria for the provision of dental implants funded through the Health Service at the Belfast Dental Hospital.

The treatment of missing teeth with dental implants under the HSC is reserved for patients with severe hypodontia or rehabilitation following either head and neck cancer surgery or severe maxillofacial trauma. Resources are extremely limited and treatments will be prioritized.

These criteria have been agreed with the Belfast Trust and are set out in the Restorative Dentistry referral guidelines which can be downloaded from the BSO website at:

<http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2470.htm>

I would ask practitioners to access this website, familiarise themselves with all the published guidelines for specialist hospital dental services and to follow them. Practitioners should clearly state in their referral letter how the patient meets the referral criteria. Patients who do not meet the criteria outlined in the guidelines will be returned to the referring practitioner.

Please note that the Belfast HSC Trust will refuse to see patients who have been referred to them when the treatment required is available under the General Dental Services but the patient does not wish to pay.

I hope you find the above information useful.

Yours sincerely



**Michael Donaldson**  
**Head of Dental Services**

Copy to:

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