

URGENT DENTAL CARE CENTRE REFERRAL



Patient Information Leaflet

Why has my dentist referred me to an Urgent Dental Care (UDC) centre?

These clinics have been established in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation as local dentists have had to restrict the level of dental care they can provide to patients to prevent the spread of the disease. Patients, including those with COVID-19, may be referred to an Urgent Dental Care (UDC) centre if they require urgent dental treatment, for example relief of severe pain, swelling, dental trauma and suspected oral cancer.

Please let your dentist know if you have COVID-19 or are self-isolating.

What should I expect prior to my appointment at the centre?

You will receive information following your referral including your appointment time, the location of the UDC centre and any instructions to follow when you arrive. Due to the limited number of appointments available there is limited flexibility in regards to appointment times. We aim to provide an appointment at your nearest UDC centre but when this is not possible you may have to travel to one of the other UDC centres across Northern Ireland.

Please bring a list of your medications with you and continue to take any medications as normal (unless otherwise advised by the dentist)

What treatment will I receive?

The dentist will examine you and provide the necessary treatment to address your urgent dental need. In most cases for the relief of severe dental pain or swelling an extraction is the most frequent provided treatment. Routine and non-urgent treatment is not provided at the centres.

What happens when practices reopen fully?

When dental practices reopen fully you should contact your dentist to arrange any further treatment that may be necessary. If you do not have a dentist you should register with a dentist. A list of health service dentists is available at <http://online.hscni.net/other-hsc-organisations/hsc-service-finder/> Helpful advice in regards to dental problems can be found at <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/conditions/dental-problems>

What if I have another problem? Can I just go straight to the centre?

No. Patients cannot attend the UDC centre unless they have been referred by their own dentist. If you have a dental problem please contact your own dentist who will be able to help you in the first instance.