



Hospital letter to GDPs for Patients requiring Dentoalveolar Surgery

Dear *Colleague*,

Thank you for all your support for the Dublin Dental University Hospital (DDUH) over many years. As you may be aware the waiting time to be seen for assessment and treatment in oral and maxillofacial surgery / oral surgery for routine cases, e.g. wisdom teeth, is approximately 20 months. We are not funded to provide the level of service that we have been attempting to provide to date and there is no prospect of additional funding. We believe our routine case waiting time is too long and we have therefore come up with a number of measures to reduce our waiting times. However, unfortunately, we also need to reduce the number of routine cases we accept. **We will, of course, continue to see urgent cases, e.g. swellings, concern re mouth cancer, cysts etc.**

We have developed acceptance criteria which we attach and which are published on our website. We are limiting acceptance of routine cases to those that meet the teaching requirements of our undergraduate and postgraduate students.

We suggest that if a patient needing routine referral has private medical insurance, you refer the patient to an oral surgeon or an oral and maxillofacial surgeon, who can treat the patient through their private insurance, saving the patient a long wait. The names of oral surgeons and oral and maxillofacial surgeons are available on the specialist lists held by the Dental (www.dentalcouncil.ie) and Medical (www.medicalcouncil.ie) Councils, respectively with the majority of these consultants / specialists maintaining a private practice.

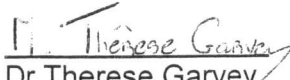
To assist you in the management of extractions in patients taking warfarin or bisphosphonates, we have placed guidelines on our website to facilitate you treating these patients safely in your own practice.

If you are referring a patient to our unit, we will be grateful if you will download and complete our proforma referral letter from our website, so that we have all the necessary information to make a decision on the referral. We aim to advise you within 3-4 weeks whether we are able to accept the referral. Please advise patients whom you refer to the DDUH, that, if accepted, they will be liable for fees. Whilst the DDUH is a public hospital, there are hospital fees for assessment and surgical procedures. Patients with a medical card living in the (local) region are covered for their assessment and surgery. Patients with a medical card from other regions usually obtain approval for funding from their local HSE office.


The vast majority of our surgery is performed under local anaesthesia and sedation, effectively, efficiently and safely. We have very limited access to general anaesthesia. We will be grateful if you did **not** suggest general anaesthesia to routine patients whom you refer to us, as it is usually not necessary.

Thank you for your help and consideration.

Signed:


Dr. Therese Garvey
Clinical Director
TCD


Dr. Claire Healy
Head of Department


Prof. Leo Stassen
Professor Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery