

ASSESSMENTS THAT DON'T IMMEDIATELY GO THROUGH TO TREATMENT

LONDON

Dentists send us patients on the NHS for oral surgical procedures to be carried out. Sometimes, the outcome of the conversation the patient has with the surgeon and healthcare team is that their case is one that has been deemed inappropriate for treatment on the same day as assessment. This means the case will be forwarded to Oral Surgery Ltd's Clinical Case Review Board who will carefully decide whether it should be rebooked for treatment or referred to a hospital. NHS London has defined categories for patients requiring oral surgery care and this is what the Clinical Case Review Board will utilise to make a decision on care. Decisions on patient journeys are made guided by patients' wishes and preferences and with patients' best interests in mind. Notwithstanding this, NHS England expect care providers to adhere to the following stipulated criteria and it is on this basis that treatments are funded.

Level 1 - to be performed by the dentist

- Simple extractions of teeth that a general dentist can do

Level 2 – to be performed by an accredited oral surgeon at a dental clinic (Oral Surgery Ltd)

- Surgery that requires more advanced skill and training than that expected of a general dentist
- Cases that require local anaesthesia alone
- Cases that do not require sedation (drug-induced drowsiness and unawareness)
- Cases that do not require a general anaesthetic (drug-induced unconsciousness)
- Cases that do not require a three-dimensional x-ray (CBCT)
- Cases that are not too difficult to perform in dental clinics for medical or surgical reasons

Level 3 – to be performed by a hospital member of staff

- Cases that require sedation (drug-induced drowsiness and unawareness)
- Cases that require a general anaesthetic (drug-induced unconsciousness)
- Cases that require a three-dimensional x-ray (CBCT)
- Cases that are particularly difficult for medical or surgical reasons

Based on these definitions as stipulated by NHS England, if the clinician of the day assesses that the case *may* be Level 3, then they will forward the notes to The Clinical Case Review Board who will make this assessment before confirming categorisation of the case as either Level 2 or Level 3. If the panel categorise the case as Level 2, the patient will be invited to return for treatment, and if Level 3, the referral will be forwarded to one of London's hospitals.

We at Oral Surgery Ltd do not represent any of the hospitals in any way, so unfortunately cannot advise on when and by whom patients will be seen if indeed the referral is forwarded on.

All patients do of course have every right to remove themselves from the NHS pathway of care at any point and enter a private pathway instead. Private healthcare providers are not obliged to adhere to the aforementioned NHS funding categories and we at Oral Surgery Ltd have the skills and infrastructure to provide Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 cases privately at the request of patients. Patients who wish to choose the private pathway of care will be treated at their earliest convenience. If this is the patient's intention, they are asked to inform us by phoning 03301229382 or emailing oral-surgery-ltd@dentallymail.co.uk

Oral Surgery Ltd prides itself on empowering patients with information so that they can make their own decisions in relation to the care they receive. It is important that they understand that they will always be central to all decision-making processes and are in a position to navigate their own chosen care through the available healthcare systems.