Children with low IOTN scores

We welcome referrals of any child who you feel may benefit from orthodontic treatment.

Where the IOTN score is assessed as below 3.6 at the NHS assessment, the patient’s options are to:

- Accept their mild malocclusion without any treatment or
- Consider a private treatment option

The IOTN score is designed to be as objective as possible, and where a borderline score is given, we will offer NHS treatment where possible. However, there are some patients with milder problems who will not qualify and these patients cannot be offered NHS treatment. This is because the limited NHS/orthodontic budget is targeted towards those patients most in need of treatment.

Please understand that when we “refuse” someone NHS orthodontic treatment, we are following the rules set for us. As our NHS contract is small we have to be quite strict in assessing the IOTN, thus ensuring we target our NHS treatments towards those patients in genuine need of orthodontics.

We thank you for your understanding for those patients who we feel are not eligible for NHS orthodontic treatment.

Working together for our patients

As orthodontics is about improving the appearance of smiles, there is often a great deal of crossover with other dental specialties. Not only can we help our fellow dentists prepare the way for more complex treatments such as implants or restoring occlusal function with crowns and bridges, we can also help minimise the amount of enamel loss by veneer and crown preparation. If you could let us know in your referral letters if you have future restorative or prostodontic work planned for patients, we can make sure we liaise with you to get the best outcomes.

We are often asked by our patients about other dental treatments, and where to go for them. If possible we will always refer your patients back to you for this, but it is always helpful for us to know if you have an area of expertise such as whitening, implants or complex restorative work.

Therefore if you are developing a new skill, why not drop us an email and let us know what you’re up to.

The online experience

Feedback we have received about our online referrals system shows that practices are finding it very simple to use, and it is saving them both time and money in referring patients. In fact, some practices have moved solely to referring patients online.

It is not too late to refer online and take advantage of these benefits – visit our website and register as a referring dentist. Doing this makes referring easier for you, and offers the best possible service to your patients.

We hope you have enjoyed September’s edition of our newsletter. If you have any questions or require further information about any of the articles, please give either of us a call.

Ben and Paula