Department of Health

23rd September 2015

NHS Dental Prototypes Agreements

Patient Information

Your dentist is taking part in a Scheme, which is being implemented by the NHS and the Department of Health to look at new ways of providing the care you need to improve your oral health.

What will happen when I visit my dentist?

Your dentist will carry out an oral health assessment. During the assessment your dentist will examine your teeth and gums and advise you how likely you are to have dental problems in the future.

Based on this your dentist will discuss with you what you can do through self-care to improve your oral health and provide any treatment they consider necessary to prevent problems occurring in the future.

If you need to improve your oral health, you may be advised to come back between Oral Health Assessments for interim care. Interim care may be with your dentist or a different member of the dental team for example, a nurse, hygienist or dental therapist depending on the treatment or care you require.

An interim care course of treatment is made up of only preventative care, advice and, if needed, monitoring. It may include a review of your self-care plan and such treatments as fluoride varnish or periodontal (gum) treatment. You may be advised of the progress you are making towards improving your oral health and any further action you may need to take.

What is self-care?

Self-care is what you can do by yourself to improve your oral health. In this Scheme your dentist and dental team may spend more time on disease prevention and give you useful hints and tips on things you can do at home to help keep your mouth as healthy as possible, for example:

- Eating less sugar
- Improving brushing and floss your teeth
- Using fluoride toothpaste

What will I be asked during the Oral Health Assessment?

Your dentist will ask you all the usual questions about your medical history that they need to know to be able to treat you safety (e.g. any allergies you may have or medication you may be taking).

You may also be asked some extra questions, which will help your dentist assess your future risk of dental disease (e.g. when and how often do you eat different types of sugar?).

Why does my dentist need this information?

This information will help your dentist plan the best way to provide the care you need.

What happens after my Oral Health Assessment?

Your dentist will talk you through your self-care plan, advise you what treatment they recommend and answer any questions you may have.

What happens if I need treatment?

Your dentist will provide you with a treatment plan in respect of any Band 2 or Band 3 course of treatment that is proposed for you, and if you request it, in respect of any Band 1 course of treatment that you receive.

The treatment plan will set out the treatment your dentist considers you need, the options that you have and the cost of the proposed treatment. The NHS can provide all the treatment that your dentist thinks you need to keep your mouth healthy.

Any private treatment you choose to have will be shown on your treatment plan in a different section.

Your dentist will ask you to sign your treatment plan which you should keep in a safe place.

When should I book my appointment?

Your dentist will advise you of the most appropriate time for your next appointment. This will depend on how healthy your mouth is. If your oral health is good, you may not need to come back for some time. However, if you need to work on improving your oral health you will be advised to come back sooner so that your progress can be monitored and you can be given more help and advice if needed.

Will the NHS patient charge levels be the same?

Yes. The same three NHS band charges, charge exemptions and help with dental charges, apply for NHS dental treatment provided by practices participating in this Scheme. In addition, a Band 1A charge, which is similar to the Band 1 charge, may be charged for an interim care course of treatment.

Band 1 course of treatment – £18.80

This covers an examination, diagnosis (e.g. X rays), advice on how to prevent future problems, a scale and polish if needed, and application of fluoride varnish or fissure sealant. If you require urgent care, even if your urgent treatment needs more than one appointment to complete, you will pay a Band 1 charge.

Band 1A course of treatment – £18.80

Interim care courses of treatment may also be provided while your practice participates in the Scheme. If you require interim care, even if your treatment needs more than one appointment to complete, you may pay a Band 1A charge depending on what treatment that you receive.

Band 2 course of treatment – £51.30

This covers everything listed in Band 1 above, plus any further treatment such as fillings, root canal work or if your dentist needs to take out one or more of your teeth.

Band 3 course of treatment – £222.50

This covers everything listed in Bands 1 and 2 above, plus crowns, dentures and bridges.

For more information on NHS patient charges, please visit the dental services section of the NHS choices website (www.nhs.uk), or ask your dental practice for further information.

We are grateful to your dentist for taking part in this programme. Our goal is to make the NHS dental services a better experience for all patients, so your participation is appreciated.