

**Pathway for COVID-19 symptomatic patients to PDS for access to emergency dental care in hours**

Please find below pathway for patients who have symptoms of COVID-19 and require access to emergency dental care. There is a need to manage the demand and flow of patients to services and we require a collaborative effort to achieve this. Support and contribution from GDS teams to manage this is vital and there is have a critical role for GDS to play in management of this.

As NHS Scotland faces its biggest challenge in decades, we cannot overstate the importance of what GDS teams can contribute to managing this situation. The joint roles in dentistry we have will ensure that our patients receive as much care as possible in Primary Care settings to avoid additional pressures and strains on Acute services.

You will have noticed within the guidance you have received through Scottish Government the important part telephone contact and clinical triage can play in managing the flow of patients. Many of you have been doing this for some days. We would ask you to manage patients with dental problems by telephone triage wherever possible (and safe to do so) defer treatment.

There has been an urgent pathway in place for confirmed/suspected cases for Covid-19. This was coordinated through NHS 24 and the Public Health Protection Unit. However, as the situation has evolved and the case definition has altered significantly, we have been working to update our pathway.

The referrals will be triaged by clinicians. From this our services will arrange for patient care.

As you will appreciate the range of options for treatment will be extremely limited and you should inform you patients of this fact prior to referral.

Patient makes contact with GDP and after clinical triage requires emergency care in hours.

**Conditions include:**

- Trauma including facial/oral laceration and/or dentoalveolar injuries (e.g. avulsion of a permanent tooth)
- Oro-facial swelling that is significant and worsening
- Post-extraction bleeding that the patient is not able to control with local measures
- Dental conditions that have resulted in acute systemic illness or raised temperature as a result of dental infection
- Severe trismus
- Oro-dental conditions that are likely to exacerbate systemic medical conditions
- Severe dental pain that cannot be managed with analgesia or antibiotics

1. Is the patient experiencing Covid 19 symptoms or living in the same household with someone exhibiting symptoms?

[https://hpspubsrepo.blob.core.windows.net/hps-website/nss/2930/documents/1\\_covid-19-guidance-for-primary-care.pdf](https://hpspubsrepo.blob.core.windows.net/hps-website/nss/2930/documents/1_covid-19-guidance-for-primary-care.pdf)

People with the following symptoms are advised to self-isolate for seven days and COVID-19 testing is not recommended

Recent onset (within the last 7 days):

New continuous cough

**and/or**

High temperature

Yes

No

a. Arrange appropriate dental care within the practice as normal.

3. Referral to the PDS Special Care Hub on **0141 314 6669**.

- You may be required to submit SCI Special Care referral indicating if patient is confirmed or suspected of Covid 19.

- Oral Health Services – Public
  - Specialist Care Dentistry
    - PDS Specialist Care