

## GDS Triage: 31 March 2020

“Due to the coronavirus outbreak and in accordance with instructions from Scottish Government and the Chief Dental Officer, only patients with severe symptoms of infection, bleeding or trauma will be seen for emergency dental treatment at the present time. If you are experiencing severe pain you may be asked to take medication for 48hrs and to phone back if symptoms persist.”

According to the Chief Dental Officer’s instructions, dentists should operate on the basis of providing **Advice, Analgesia and Anti-microbials**.

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### PAIN

**Is the patient able to manage the pain with pain relief?**

If yes then over the counter analgesics

- 1) Paracetamol if there are no contraindications
- 2) Ibuprofen if there are no contraindications
- 3) Alternating or taking both of these analgesics
- 4) Consider prescribing Diclofenac 50mg three times per day for 5 days for severe pain

If the patient has a history of a previous or active peptic ulcer or gastric problems you may want to consider advising patient to buy Omeprazole 20mg x 1 per day for 5 days along with the Diclofenac.

Ask the patient to phone back if symptoms do not improve after 48 hours or if a swelling appears - then follow the swelling guidance.

- **If patient is unable to manage pain with over the counter analgesics then consider referral to PDS Special Care Hub as below.**
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### BLEEDING

**Is it following a tooth extraction?** If yes give normal POI.

- **If bleeding persists then follow PDS Special Care Hub as below.**
  - If bleeding is following trauma then follow trauma pathway.
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### SWELLING

**Does the swelling extend to the eye/neck?**

**Yes:** Is the swelling affecting vision or breathing/swallowing (distinguished from pain on swallowing) or preventing patient from opening their mouth more than 2 fingers (<15mm) width? **If yes then tell patient to attend A&E Department.**

**No:** They should be prescribed appropriate antimicrobials taking the usual precautions around allergy and consider referral via PDS Special Care Hub as below.

**Does the swelling cross the lower border of the mandible or extend into the neck?**

**Yes** **Then patient should be referred via PDS Special Care Hub as below for clinical examination initially; may require referral onto OMFS.**

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### TRAUMA

**Is there any facial trauma with any loss of consciousness or blurred/double vision or vomiting?**

- **STRAIGHT TO A&E DEPARTMENT**

Patients who have **avulsed a permanent tooth** should be instructed to replant it if possible and follow PDS Special Care Hub as below.

If any other form of trauma, **eg intrusion**, follow PDS Special Care Hub as below.

- If the tooth is to be transported to the clinic it should be placed in a small container of milk or the patient’s saliva.
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### PDS SPECIAL CARE HUB DETAILS

**Contact number:** 0141 314 6669

Please provide the following information;

*Patient name; Patient DOB; CHI number if available; Contact number; Patient address/Postcode*

Ideally a follow-up referral via SCI Gateway **if possible**.

Patients will then be allocated by the Special Care Team to the appropriate pathway.