

Multi-disciplinary team (MDT) or joint clinics for children's dental treatment

Information for patients, parents and carers

This leaflet contains information about your child's attendance at a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) dental clinic. If you have any questions, please speak to a member of staff looking after your child.

Confirming your child's identity

Before your child has a treatment or procedure, our staff will ask you to confirm their name and date of birth and check their ID band. If your child does not have an ID band, we will also ask you to confirm their address. If we do not ask these questions, then please ask us to check.

What is a multi-disciplinary team clinic?

Multi-disciplinary team clinics are sometimes called 'MDT clinics' or 'joint clinics'.

These are combined clinics where you will meet consultants and specialists from different dental departments.

Examples of paediatric dentistry joint clinics include:

- Paediatric Dentistry, Oral Surgery and Orthodontics Joint Clinic
- Paediatric Dentistry and Oral Medicine Joint Clinic
- Paediatric Dentistry and Restorative Dentistry Joint Clinic
- Hypodontia Clinic – this is a clinic for children with missing teeth

What different teams might see my child?

The paediatric dental team, who specialise in dental treatment for children, will be there. There may also be members of staff from the following specialities:

- Orthodontics – these are dentists who specialise in diagnosing and treating misalignments of the teeth and jaws, moving teeth using methods like braces if needed.
- Restorative dentistry – these dentists treat adults to repair or replace damaged or missing teeth. They may need to be involved in seeing your child to plan for the longer-term options as they transition into adulthood.
- Oral surgery – these are dentists who specialise in surgical procedures within the mouth, jaws and face. If your child needs a more complex surgical procedure, they may help with planning or carrying out this treatment.
- Oral medicine – these are medically trained dentists who diagnose and manage chronic, recurrent, and medically-related disorders of the mouth, face, and jaws.

Why does my child need to be seen at a joint clinic?

Your child may need dental treatment which involves different dental specialities.

Your child's treatment will need to be planned by specialised dentists who have experience in different dental conditions.

For example, if your child needs fillings, extractions and orthodontic treatment, they may be seen at the Paediatric Dentistry, Oral Surgery and Orthodontics Joint Clinic to make a treatment plan. If your child has missing teeth, they may be seen on the Hypodontia Clinic for treatment planning.

What is the benefit of a joint clinic?

A joint clinic allows your child to be seen by specialised senior dentists who have a variety of experience. They can make a treatment plan that is tailored to your child's needs.

A joint clinic also allows communication between different dental specialities, so that we can plan the best type of treatment for your child, and at the best time.

Consent

We must by law obtain your written consent to any operation and some other procedures beforehand. Staff will explain the risks, benefits and alternatives before they ask you to sign a consent form. If you are unsure about any aspect of the treatment proposed, please do not hesitate to ask to speak with a senior member of staff again.

Who will my child meet at the clinic?

There will be lots of people at this clinic. Consultants and specialist dentists lead the team and work with junior dentists and trainees and dental nurses. One of these dentists will assess and examine your child. A senior dentist will always be present at the clinic to discuss your child's care.

Who should attend?

All children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, as parental consent is required before any procedure, including X-rays.

Please note that siblings, a relative or a family friend cannot give consent, even if they hold a letter of authorisation from the parent or legal guardian.

What should I bring?

Please bring any information regarding your child's medical history that may be relevant. This includes details of any medications or previous hospitalisations.

Also, if possible, please bring digital copies of any X-rays of your child's teeth taken by your dentist. This may help to avoid repeating unnecessary X-rays or having to postpone treatment until these are sent to us.

If you are a legal guardian or hold a special guardianship order, please bring these documents to the appointment.

What can I expect at the joint clinic appointment?

At this appointment, we will:

1. record your child's medical history, including any medication your child is taking
2. examine your child's mouth which might include taking more X-rays or special tests
3. discuss a treatment plan with you

Note

Please be prepared to spend up to 3 hours for your appointment. Please bring a book or other reading material to pass the time while you wait.

What if I cannot attend?

Please notify the hospital if you cannot attend this appointment. Due to a high demand for our services, you will not receive another appointment if you either:

- fail to attend your appointment without notifying us in advance
- reschedule your appointment more than once

To cancel or re-arrange your appointment, please contact us as soon as possible.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about the information in this leaflet, please contact the Department of Paediatric Dentistry team.

Central Referral Office	020 3299 4988
Clinic Appointments	020 3299 3055
Secretary	020 3299 1681

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.kch.nhs.uk/patientsvisitors/patients/leaflets

MyChart

Our MyChart app and website lets you securely access parts of your health record with us, giving you more control over your care. To sign up or for help, call us on 020 3299 4618 or email kings.mychart@nhs.net. Visit www.kch.nhs.uk/mychart to find out more.

Sharing your information

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has partnered with Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust through the King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre. We are working together to give our patients the best possible care, so you might find we invite you for appointments at Guy's or St Thomas' hospitals. King's College Hospital and Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trusts share an electronic patient record system, which means information about your health record can be accessed safely and securely by health and care staff at both Trusts. For more information visit www.kch.nhs.uk.

Care provided by students

We provide clinical training where our students get practical experience by treating patients. Please tell your dentist if you do not want students to be involved in your care. Your treatment will not be affected by your decision.

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a service that offers support, information and assistance to patients, relatives and visitors. They can also provide help and advice if you have a concern or complaint that staff have not been able to resolve for you. They can also pass on praise or thanks to our teams. The PALS office is located on the ground floor of the Hambleton Wing, near the main entrance on Bessemer Road - staff will be happy to direct you.

PALS at King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5 9RS

Tel: **020 3299 4618**

Email: kings.pals@nhs.net

If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact our Interpreting and Accessible Communication Support on 020 3299 4618 or email kings.access@nhs.net