

Your child's dental care by students

Information for patients, parents and carers

This leaflet explains what you can expect from dental care with our undergraduate and postgraduate dental students. If you have any questions, please speak to the dentist 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.

Where will my child's treatment take place?

Your child will be seen in the Paediatric Dentistry Clinic in King's College Dental Institute. The clinic has an open plan area with multiple dental chairs. This has been designed to allow privacy to patients, but also to allow the supervising dentist to see what is happening.

Where are the students from?

The students will be undergoing a dental training programme with King's College London. Treating patients is an important part of the student's training.

What is the difference between undergraduate and postgraduate dental students?

Undergraduate dental students are training to become dentists.

Postgraduate dental students are qualified dentists, who are gaining more experience in paediatric dentistry. They are already working as dentists, but are here to learn more about providing dental care for children.

Who will be supervising the student?

Experienced dentists will supervise the student clinics and they will check the treatment provided by the students.

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.

Is dental treatment by a student different?

Students work more slowly than qualified dentists, and supervisors must check their work. This means that it may take longer for the students to complete the course of dental treatment. Your child's appointment time may also be longer. The supervisor may be observing multiple students at one time, so you may need to wait for the supervisor to be available.

Your child's appointment times will be on specific days of the week and will be affected by student training timetables and holidays. You need to be flexible about the days and times when you can come.

Your child may also see different students at each appointment.

Can I bring other children?

We do not recommend that you bring any other children. As it is a learning environment, the clinic can be very busy.

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 this to the appointment.

How do I get an appointment to be seen by students?

At your child's first dental appointment, the dentist will assess your child and see if they are suitable for treatment by dental students. If your child is suitable for treatment, your dentist will arrange an appointment for your child at the student clinic.

If your child is not suitable for treatment by students, your dentist will explain the next steps.

What happens after my child's dental treatment is completed?

After your child has received a course of dental treatment, they will be discharged back to your child's local dentist. It is very important that you continue to bring your child to the dentist for regular check-ups.

What if I cannot attend?

Please notify the hospital if you cannot attend your child's appointments. 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 3375 020 3299 4983

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

Sharing your information

We have teamed up with Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals in a partnership known as 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'. To make sure everyone you meet always has the most up-to-date information about your health, we may share information about you between the hospitals.

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 Hambleden 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 3601

Email: kch-tr.palsdh@nhs.net

If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact our Communications and Interpreting telephone line on 020 3299 4826 or email kch-tr.accessibility@nhs.net