

## Direct Access Policy

Our practice allows direct access by patients to the dental hygienist and dental therapist. This policy describes how these arrangements work within our practice.

### Direct access appointments

All discussions with patients about the direct access arrangements at the practice must be recorded in the patient's clinical records together with a note of any information provided.

Direct access treatments are available to existing and new patients. New patients who do not wish to see a practice dentist should, at their appointment with the hygienist or therapist, be given information on the limitations of the treatment that the hygienist or therapist can provide and be advised of the need for a full oral health assessment by a dentist.

Direct access is available only for the following treatments

### Scope of practice

This means that our hygienists can:

- Provide dental hygiene care to a wide range of patients
- Obtain a detailed dental history from patients and evaluate their medical history
- Complete periodontal examination and charting and use indices to screen and monitor periodontal disease
- Diagnose and treatment plan within their competence
- Plan the delivery of care for patients
- Give appropriate patient advice
- Provide preventive oral care to patients and liaise with dentists over the treatment of caries, periodontal disease and tooth wear
- Undertake supragingival and subgingival scaling and root surface debridement using manual and powered instruments
- Use appropriate anti-microbial therapy to manage plaque related diseases
- Adjust restored surfaces in relation to periodontal treatment
- Apply topical treatments and fissure sealants
- Give patients advice on how to stop smoking
- Give infiltration and inferior dental block analgesia
- Place temporary dressings and re-cement crowns with temporary cement
- Care of implants and treatment of peri-implant tissues
- Identify anatomical features, recognise abnormalities and interpret common pathology
- Carry out oral cancer screening
- If necessary, refer patients to other healthcare professionals
- Keep full, accurate and contemporaneous patient records
- If working on prescription, vary the detail but not the direction of the prescription according to patient needs.

In addition to the above, our therapist can also:

- Carry out pulpotomies on primary teeth
- Extract primary teeth
- Place pre-formed crowns on primary teeth

## Referrals to a dentist

If a referral to a dentist is necessary, the hygienist or therapist will explain the reasons for the referral and seek the patient's consent to be referred. The reasons for the referral and the patient's consent or refusal are noted in the patient's clinical records.

If the patient declines to be seen by a dentist, the hygienist or therapist shall not continue to see the patient for hygiene or therapy treatments. This will be recorded in the patient's notes.

## Fees 2016

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### Hygienist – Health Treatments

Low Maintenance Appointment (15 minutes)	£ 47.00
Regular Hygiene Appointment (25 minutes)	£ 59.00
Extensive Hygiene Appointment (35 minutes)	£ 74.00
Full Mouth Gum Treatment (4 visits of intensive periodontal care 35 minutes each)	£ 255.00

*Please be aware that all new patients who request Direct Access require an initial "Extensive appointment" for your hygienist to establish your hygiene needs*

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### Hygienist – Cosmetic cleaning

Brilliant Shine (25 minutes)	£ 59.00
Smoker's Cosmetic treatment (45 minutes)	£ 87.00

## Patient goodwill

All patients attending the practice, including those attending for treatment under direct access arrangements are patients of the practice and not of the individual hygienist and/or therapist providing the treatment.

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2016