



## **Routine treatment with undergraduate Dental Hygienist-Therapists**

**Edinburgh Dental Institute (Lauriston Buildings)**

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### **Information for Self-Referral Patients**

#### **What does a Dental Hygienist-Therapist do?**

A Dental Hygienist-Therapist provides the following treatment for adult patients:

- Disease prevention and oral hygiene advice
- Scale and polish (gum treatment) and
- Routine fillings.

There are some clinical treatments which the students are not able to provide; namely: root canal treatment, extraction of permanent (adult) teeth, dentures, veneers, crowns, bridges, whitening, orthodontics and dental implants.

#### **Suitability for treatment**

The Dental Hygienist-Therapist (DHT) students rely on your support - treating real patients gives them the clinical experience that they require for their training. Any treatment carried out by the DHT students will be provided free of charge. **Unfortunately we are unable to treat you if you are already registered with a local dentist unless your dentist refers you to us.**

#### **Clinic dates**

Please note that the students have clinics during University of Edinburgh term times which run from **September to November** in Semester 1 and **January to March** in Semester 2. Outwith these times it is likely that any treatment would be put on hold. Dental treatment provided by undergraduate dental students is not covered by the NHS waiting times guarantee.



## **Self-referral form**

Patients can self refer to the SoHT or be referred by their GDP.

The link to the self-referral form can be found at the Edinburgh Dental Institute website, under 'Information for Patients':

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/dentistry/information-for-patients/dental-care-by-student-hygienist-therapist>

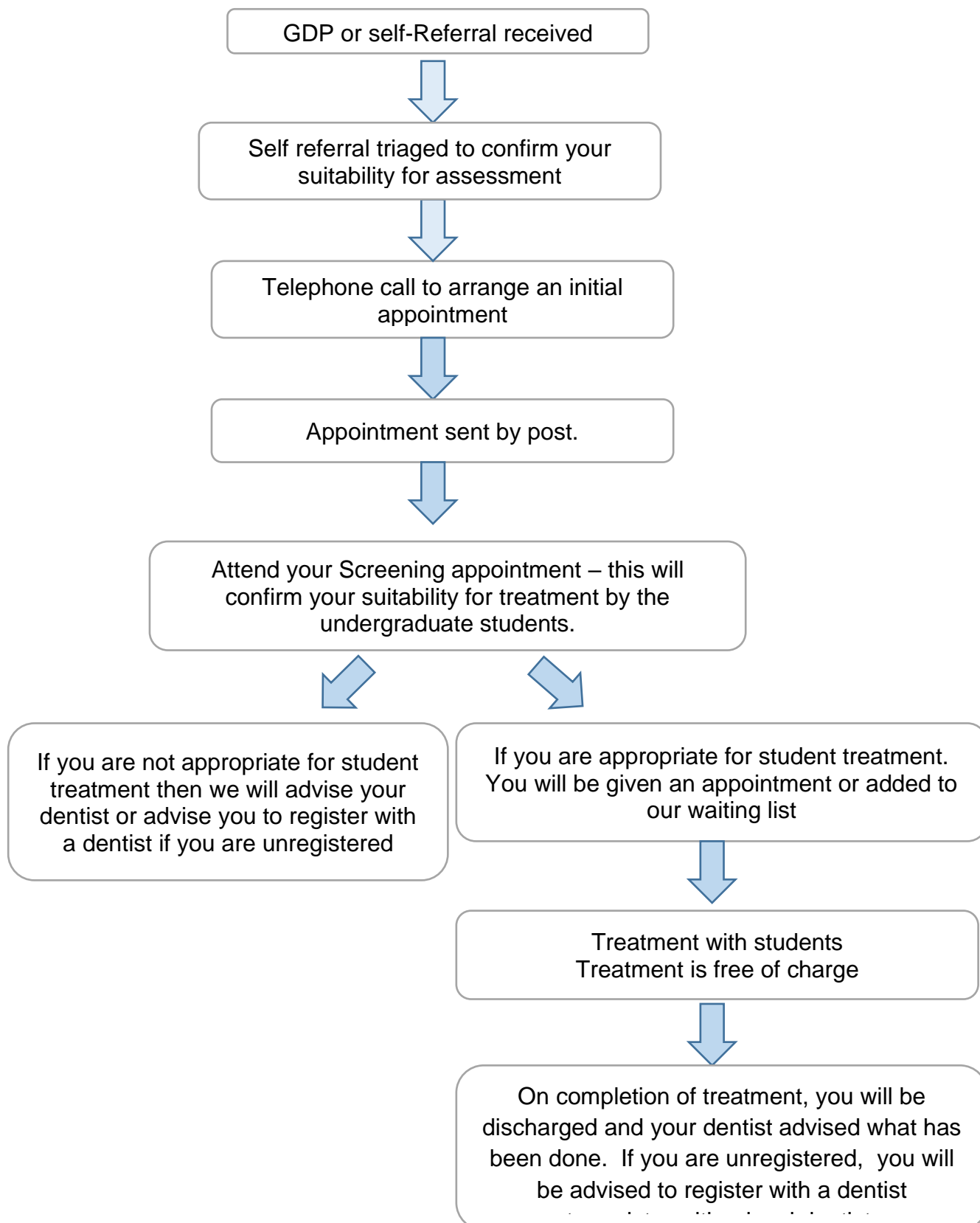
## **The Referral Process (see flow chart below)**

Your referral form will be triaged to assess your suitability to attend a screening appointment. This will assess your suitability for treatment with our DHT students. In some circumstances, we may not offer you an appointment for screening and you will be notified of this.

If you are triaged as suitable for a screening appointment, you will receive an appointment for assessment with one of the students under supervision. It may be necessary for us to take X-rays to help us diagnose disease and formulate a treatment plan for you. You will be told what treatment you need and which parts of this treatment our students can provide. We will also tell you if there are other treatments that they cannot provide. In some circumstances, we may advise you that you are not suitable for treatment with the students at all. Please note that you will not get treatment on your first visit.



**The flow chart below outlines the self-referral process:**





## **Attending for treatment**

If you are suitable for treatment from the undergraduate DHT students then you will be given another appointment for treatment. Please note that all treatment with a DHT student takes place under the supervision of qualified hygienists, hygienist-therapists and/or dentists on an open plan clinic.

Students work more slowly than qualified Dental Hygienist-Therapists and supervisors always check their work. This means that your treatment will take longer both in terms of the length of each appointment and the total number of appointments required. Each appointment will be on average 1 hour and 30 minutes long. Your allocated student will be able to give you more information about this once your treatment plan is agreed.

## **Emergency treatment**

Please be advised that patients who are not registered with dentist and require emergency dental treatment should attend Chalmers Dental Centre (Monday - Friday between 9am-6pm). Outwith these times, patients should call NHS 24 on 111.

For more information please see the NHS Lothian website:

<http://www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk/Services/Dentists/Pages/EmergencyDentalCare.aspx>.

### **Additional Information**

Although based in the Edinburgh Dental Institute, the School of Dental Hygiene and Therapy is part of the University of Edinburgh and is therefore separate from NHS Lothian Specialist Dental Services (i.e. Orthodontics, Paediatric Dentistry, Restorative Dentistry and Oral Surgery) which are also based in the Institute. These services can only be accessed by referral from a dentist or doctor.