

All North Yorkshire and
Humber Dental Practices

4 November 2015

Dear Practitioner

Many thanks for your continued support for NHS Primary Care Dentistry.

In the current economic climate one of the responsibilities of the Local Dental Network is to examine ways of improving efficiency whilst not impacting on clinical care. The LDN has identified unnecessary referrals as a way of improving efficiency. Unnecessary referrals are expensive in terms of secondary care funding and practice and patient time. Reducing these will benefit everyone.

A recent audit of referrals from Primary Care Practices in to Specialist Orthodontic Practices highlighted an inappropriate referral rate of around 20%. This means that 80% of referrals in to Specialist Orthodontic Care are appropriate but also that 20% of the time it is unnecessary. We need to work collectively to reduce this and fortunately this can be easily achieved by applying the necessary referral criteria.

I attach a short referral guideline for Orthodontic Referrals for your information. Please raise this issue in your Practice Meetings and ensure all your Performers are aware of this issue. I have attached a link to the B.O.S referral guide. Printing one of these to help GDPs with referrals and for use in communicating the guidelines to patients may be useful.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely



Simon Hearnshaw
North Yorkshire and Humber Local Dental Network Chair