

Consent for direct access treatment with a Dental Therapist at Dental Surgery

Background

The General Dental Council (GDC) permits patients to directly access the services of a dental therapist from 1st May 2013.

Previously a dentist had to see the patient prior to prescribing any dental treatment to a dental therapist. This has now changed with some exceptions.

Direct Access

It is important to understand the scope of what a dental therapist can and cannot do. A dental therapist can diagnose tooth decay and gum diseases and can provide treatments such as fillings and teeth cleaning. They can also take x-rays (radiographs) to help with their diagnosis and extract baby teeth. Complex or advanced treatments are left in the domain of a dentist such as prescribing antibiotics, crowns and bridges, root canal work, dentures and extractions of adult teeth.

Referral back to a dentist

You must be aware should an item out of a dental therapists scope be identified, an additional examination may be required by a dentist. This is because the dental therapists is acting in your best interest and must refer you to the appropriate clinician to complete your treatment.

Consent

I have read and understood the limitation of direct access and agree to be treated under the direct access arrangements. I understand that the dental therapist is only responsible for the treatments within their scope and that regular visits to a dentist may still be required.

Signed Date