



Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Groups
Safeguarding Services



DENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER.

Dear Colleagues.

The dental health care for children looked after (CLA) is as important as undertaking the Statutory Health Assessments (IHA and RHA). There has been some confusion over the last few years as to the exact process to meet statutory requirements for CLA and the program recommendations by the Department of Health.

Guidance has been sought to assist you in ensuring that the children and young people in your care have the opportunity to have access to good dental health care. A dental consultant in Public Health has given his expert advice and alongside published national guidance (Delivering Better Dental Health, 2014) and a programme has been drawn up (see overleaf).

For Children Services Department (CSD) and carers who are responsible for CLA the following process for dentist access should be followed.

1. If the child/young person who comes into care already attends a **NHS** dentist all efforts should be made to continue attendance at that practice.
2. If the child/ young person is not able to remain at their original dentist or has never been to a dentist the child/young person should be taken to a **NHS** dentist. This can be arranged by the carer but must be with a **NHS** Dentist as private dental costs will not be paid for by either the NHS or CSD.
3. If unable to find a NHS dentist contact with the NHS Choices should assist in finding a NHS dentist.
<http://www.nhs.uk/Service-Search/Dentists/LocationSearch/3>
4. In extreme cases in which no NHS dentist can be found a discussion with the Specialist Nurse for Children in Care for the area that they live may be able to assist in accessing the community dental service. This would only happen if it can be evidenced that all the previous steps have been taken (1, 2 and 3.).
5. All dental contacts **MUST** be recorded on ICS with date as soon as the contact with dental service has happened. This ensures that CSD has an accurate recording of the contact and meets their statutory requirement as corporate parents.

As you will see from the "Maintaining Oral Health" programme overleaf relationship with a dental practice is encouraged between 0- 3 years of age and visiting as often as advised. As soon as teeth erupt one visit should occur and then annually thereafter or as advised.

If you have any questions in relation to this please speak to the Specialist Nurses for your area who will be happy to offer guidance and support on this.

Naomi Black
Designated Nurse for Children in care

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(This service is provided for Fareham and Gosport CCG, North East Hampshire and Farnham CCG, North Hampshire CCG, South Eastern Hampshire CCG and West Hampshire CCG).

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Maintaining Oral Health

Age Group	Self Care	Professional Care
0-3 year olds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 6 months infants should be introduced to drinking from a free-flow cup and from age 1 drinking from a bottle discouraged • Sugar should not be added to weaning foods or drinks • As soon as teeth erupt in the mouth brush them twice daily with a fluoridated toothpaste – last thing at night and one other occasion • Toothpaste should contain no less than 1,000ppm fluoride – use only a smear of toothpaste • Toothbrushing should be supervised • Use sugar free medicines • Minimise the frequency and amount of sugary foods and drinks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a relationship with the dental practice, visiting as often as advised • See a dentist as often as advised once teeth erupt, with at least one visit by the age of 12 months and at least one visit every 12 months thereafter
All 3-6 year olds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brush teeth twice daily with a fluoridated toothpaste – last thing at night and one other occasion • Toothpaste should contain no less than 1,000ppm fluoride – use a pea size amount of toothpaste • Spit out after brushing and do not rinse • Toothbrushing should be supervised • Use sugar free medicines • Minimise the frequency and amount of sugary foods and drinks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See a dentist as often as advised, but at least once every 12 months • Receive fluoride varnish to teeth two times per year
3-6 year olds at risk of oral disease	<p>As above plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use toothpaste with 1,350-1,500ppm fluoride • Review diet 	<p>As above plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive fluoride varnish to teeth two or more times per year
All 7 – Young Adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brush teeth twice daily with a fluoridated toothpaste – last thing at night and one other occasion • Toothpaste should contain 1,350-1,500ppm fluoride • Spit out after brushing and do not rinse • Minimise the frequency and amount of sugary foods and drinks • Eat a healthy diet with at least 5 portions of fruit and vegetables • Do not smoke 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See a dentist as often as advised, but at least once every 12 months and follow advice received • Receive fluoride varnish to teeth two times per year
7 – Young Adults at risk of oral disease	<p>As above plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a fluoride mouth rinse daily at a different time to brushing • Review diet 	<p>As above plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive treatment to fissure seal permanent molars • Apply fluoride varnish two or more times per year • Receive toothpaste with a higher content of fluoride
All Adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brush teeth twice daily with a fluoridated toothpaste – last thing at night and one other occasion • Toothpaste should contain at least 1,350ppm fluoride • Spit out after brushing and do not rinse • Minimise the frequency and amount of sugary foods and drinks • Eat a healthy diet with at least 5 portions of fruit and vegetables • Do not smoke 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See a dentist as often as advised, but at least once every 24 months and follow advice received
Adults at risk of oral disease	<p>As above plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a fluoride mouth rinse daily at a different time to brushing • Review diet 	<p>As above plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive fluoride varnish to teeth two times per year • Receive toothpaste with a higher content of fluoride