

Restorative Department Referral Protocols

Dental Implants

Referrals for dental implants must be made using the [Dental Implant Referral Form](#) and emailed to leedsth-tr.restorativereferral@nhs.net.

The criteria for implant placement on the NHS are strict, and the Leeds Dental Institute is only able to provide implant treatment to a limited selection of cases, which include:

- **Developmental disorders** - malformed, missing or ectopic teeth (e.g. hypodontia, cleft palate, amelogenesis or dentinogenesis imperfecta)
- **Trauma** - teeth lost or of poor prognosis subsequent to trauma
- **Head and neck cancer/ non-malignant pathology** - where surgical intervention has led to tooth and tissue loss
- **Severe denture intolerance** - despite construction of technically acceptable dentures e.g. edentulous patients with severe ridge resorption, neuromuscular disorders etc

Please note that belonging to one of these categories does not guarantee that implant treatment will be offered.

Treatment will only be considered if:

- **Other conventional options have failed or are clearly inappropriate**
- **Skeletal/ cranio-facial growth has ceased**
 - Although this is considered to be at around the age of 18-21, dento-facial growth continues beyond this, and this should be taken into account during treatment planning. Implants placed early (before 21 years) may become progressively infra-occluded resulting in the need for replacement of the prosthesis or in extreme cases, removal of the implant.

- **Patients are fit and healthy enough to undergo surgical and restorative treatment over a protracted period.**
 - Note all treatment is generally carried out under local anaesthetic.

We are unable to offer treatment for patients who:

- **Are not registered with a dentist**
- **Are not compliant with daily regimes necessary to maintain oral health** e.g. have poor oral hygiene
- **Have evidence of untreated primary dental disease:** active caries, periodontal disease, failing restorations
- **Are current smokers/ vapers.** Usually smoking/ vaping cessation would need to have been achieved for at least 6 months prior to considering implant treatment

The Leeds Dental Institute is not normally able to offer treatment in the following instances:

- Completion or maintenance of implant treatment commenced outside the NHS
- Management of failing implants or implant-retained prostheses provided outside of the NHS

If patients are offered implant treatment, their on-going routine dental care and maintenance must still be provided within General Dental Practice.

Patients should therefore continue to be seen for recalls and routine treatment whilst undergoing treatment in the Leeds Dental Institute.

Once implant treatment has been completed, patients will be discharged from the Leeds Dental Institute for monitoring and maintenance in General Dental Practice.

This is likely to incur a fee, and the patient must be made aware of this at the outset. Specific information about the implants and prostheses will be provided on discharge, along with advice for maintenance.