

Appointment Management and Cancellation Policy

It is the aim of this practice to provide quality dental care to our patients and to use clinical time effectively. To achieve this aim, we have an appointment management and cancellation policy.

Management of appointments

We invest in the latest technology, including a modern telephone equipment, to allow our patients to make or reschedule appointments easily. Our appointment system supports timely access to care and treatment, allows patients to access services at a time that suits them and minimises the length of time people have to wait. Appointments can be made or rescheduled by calling our dedicated appointments line on 0208 856 7759.

Reminders

E-mail reminders are sent to patients at various times including 4 weeks, 5 days and then 2 days before any appointment. All appointments are endeavoured to be contacted by phone 2 days prior to their appointment to confirm attendance and patients are requested to inform the practice of any changes to their contact details.

Cancellation or delay of an appointment by the practice

We will only cancel or delay a patient's appointment in unavoidable circumstances. In such cases, we will take the following steps:

- The patient will be contacted as soon as the practice is aware of the need to cancel or delay the appointment. We will explain the reason for the cancellation or delay
- If the patient has a bad attendance history, this may be taken into account
- At the time of contact, the patient will be offered a new appointment at the earliest time available

Cancellation of an appointment or missed appointment by a patient

Patients are requested to give at least **2 working days notice not including the day of the appointment** to cancel a dental appointment. Cancellations should be made by telephone on: 020 8856 7759. Late cancellations and missed appointments may represent a cost to the practice, when other patients could have been seen in the time set aside for the patient.

We do not make a charge for NHS appointments for a late cancellation or missed appointment. However, we reserve the right to ask a patient to find another dental practice if they continue to miss appointments.

If two or more NHS dental appointments are missed or cancelled with less than **2 working days notice not including the day of the appointment**, we do not guarantee being able to complete a patient's NHS treatment or offer them NHS treatment in the future.

There is a fee for private dental appointments that are missed or cancelled with less than **2 working days notice not including the day of the appointment** notice. The fee is based on the length of the appointment.

It is our aim to telephone or write to patients after a missed appointment to understand the reason for non-attendance and to inform them about any fee or decision about their NHS dental care. We understand that cancellations are sometimes unavoidable due to illness or emergencies and we will take account of all valid circumstances.

Any appeals about missed or cancelled appointment decisions by a patient should be made in writing to the practice management team.