



## **Paediatric Dental Service**

### **Information for Parents and Carers of children referred to the Paediatric Dental Emergency Clinic**

#### **Who are we?**

Our team provide dental care and treatment for children with a range of needs which make it difficult for this treatment to be provided by their dentist.

#### **Your child's appointment**

We have been asked to see your child. Their appointment is on:

DATE .....

TIME .....

While we make every effort to see you on time, your child is being seen on an emergency clinic and so there are occasionally delays.

#### **Coming to the clinic**

The Clinic is at the Edinburgh Dental Institute, on Level 3 of the Lauriston Building, Lauriston Place, EH3 9HA. When you come through the front glass door, walk across the courtyard and enter the main building through the doors on the left. Turn left and take the lift or stairs to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor.

Please report to Reception. The Receptionist will check your child's details and direct you to the waiting area.

#### **What will happen during the appointment?**

A full assessment will be carried out to allow us to plan the treatment your child needs and the best way this can be provided for them. A plan will be discussed and agreed with you and your child. Treatment may also be offered.

The appointment may take some time, particularly if additional investigations such as x-rays and photographs are needed, so please make plans to stay for up to *three* hours. If your child is likely to require additional support for the taking of x-rays, please would you ensure that two adults attend the appointment.

We have a range of options available for helping children cope with dental treatment and will work with you to decide which approach is needed for your child:

**Acclimatisation** – We will spend time explaining things to your child and working with them at their own pace to help them accept the treatment they need

**Inhalation Sedation** – This involves breathing nitrous oxide (laughing gas) through a nose piece while treatment is happening. This does not put the child to sleep but can help children to relax, making it easier for them to have their treatment

**General Anaesthetic** – Occasionally, a general anaesthetic may be required to allow the urgent treatment to be completed. The dentist will discuss this fully with you. General Anaesthetics are always provided within a hospital. Most take place in the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh, though children living in West Lothian may be offered treatment at St John's Hospital in Livingston.

At the end of the appointment, arrangements for any further treatment will be made to either:

- Return to see us
- Attend a clinic more local to where you live
- Return to your family dentist

## **Who do we share information with?**

After the appointment, the Dentist will write to the person who asked us to see your child giving information about:

- The assessment and treatment provided
- Whether further investigations are needed
- The treatment that is still needed and where this should take place.

A copy of the letter will also be sent to you and your child's doctor, and when applicable following discussion with you, any other colleagues involved your child's care.

## **What to do if your child's symptoms become worse**

If your child's symptoms become worse before their next appointment contact:

- Monday-Friday 9:00--16:30 hours – phone us (Tel: **0131 536 1219**)
- Out-of-hours – telephone NHS 24 (Tel: **111**)