

Orthodontic Emergencies

Information for patients

What is an Orthodontic emergency?

Please be reassured that the majority of the problems are not urgent and don't need to be seen straightaway however if you do need an additional appointment, we call this an 'Emergency appointment' but don't panic. We run emergency clinics on certain days of the week.

Orthodontic treatment is a lengthy process which includes coming to appointments regularly, to avoid more appointments it is important to understand when you may need to return for an emergency appointment.

- If you are in pain, call us and we will get you booked into an emergency clinic which runs on certain days. This will be to out carry the necessary treatment to avoid any more pain or discomfort.
- If your normal appointment is within the next 2 weeks, then most emergencies can wait until your next normal appointment where the team will be able to fix any breakages.
- If your normal appointment is more than 2 weeks away, then call us at your convenience to make an emergency appointment on certain days.
- Please apply Orthodontic wax to areas that are rubbing on the gum to help with discomfort.

When do you need to phone for an Emergency Appointment?

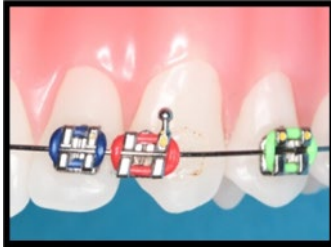
- The following can wait until your next appointment: broken brackets, lost modules, power chain, springs, lost Upper Removable Appliance (see pictures below)
- If your appliance breaks but you are able to wear the appliance then please keep doing so, but if you are unable to wear the appliance then please contact us for an emergency appointment on certain days.
- Retainers are provided at the end of treatment and patients are required to wear every night. If these break you are required to contact us. After 6 months you will be discharged, and you will need to contact your dentist to get this replaced which will include a cost.
- If your separators come out before your next normal appointment, then please contact us for an emergency appointment on certain days.
- If you have any post-surgery issues, please contact your surgeon regarding any issues.

Missed Appointments

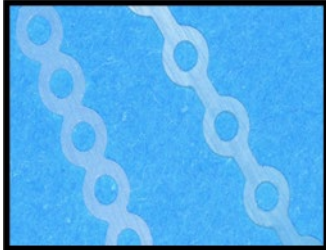
If you are unable to attend your appointment, please contact us.

Multiple missed appointments may result in discharge from our care, and you may experience harm from your braces. A missed appointment costs NHS Lothian approximately £200.

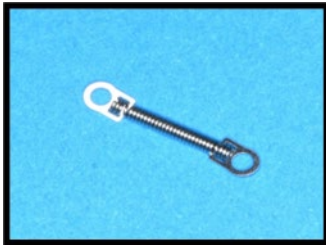
Understanding Orthodontic Appliances



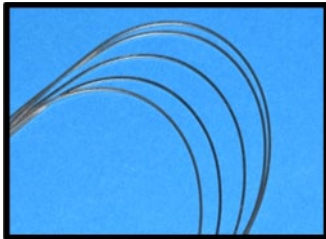
1) **Brackets** are attached to teeth that are being used in treatment. If these break off, you can wait until your next normal appointment to have these replaced unless this is causing pain or discomfort.



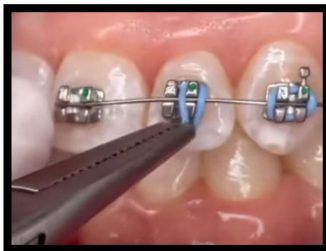
2) **Powerchain** is used to help with space closure. If this comes off, you do not need to worry as this can be fixed at your next normal appointment.



3) **Springs** are clipped onto appliances but sometimes they come loose, this is something you don't need to worry about and can be fixed at your next normal appointment.



4) Sometimes **wires** slip out or break, this can occasionally be painful due to irritating the gum. If it is causing pain this will require an emergency appointment to fix the wire.



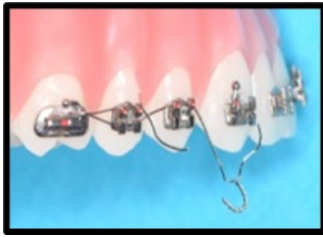
5) **Modules** are used to tie in the wires, these come in multiple different colours. If these come off this is not classed as emergency and can wait till your next normal appointment



6) **Gold chains** are used to guide unerupted teeth into the correct position. If these detach this is something that needs attention soon. Please call up for emergency appointments on certain days.



7) **Retainers** are used at the end to hold your smile. If these break you will need to contact us for replacement. We provide the first set of retainers. After 6 months from getting your braces off, you will need to see your own dentist for replacement retainers at your own cost.



8) **Long Ligature** is used in many ways to help with movement of teeth. If this breaks you can wait until the next normal appointment to have these replaced unless this is causing pain.



9) **Separators** are placed to create space for molar bands. Sometimes these can come out before your next normal appointment, please contact us for an emergency appointment.



10) **Arch Expansion appliance** is used to widen the jaw, if it breaks which stops you from wearing the appliance then you need to contact us for an emergency appointment. If it breaks but able to wear appliance, then please keep wearing until normal appointment.



11) **Mini Screws** are placed into the jawbone to help with anchorage or movement. If these cause pain or any issues, then contact for an emergency appointment.



12) **Twin block appliance** is used to change your bite. If it breaks which stops you from wearing the appliance then you need to contact us for an emergency appointment. If it breaks but able to wear appliance, then please keep wearing until normal appointment.



13) **Upper Removable appliances** are used for many different reasons. If it breaks which stops you from wearing the appliance then you need to contact us for an emergency appointment. If it breaks but you are still able to wear appliance then please keep wearing until normal appointment.