

**Practice Complaints Procedure**

**– Information for Patients**

If you have a complaint or concern about the service you have received from the dentists or any of the staff working in this practice, please let us know. We operate a practice complaints procedure. Our complaint system adheres to national criteria.

*How to Complain*

We hope that most problems can be sorted out easily and quickly, at the time they arise and with the person concerned. If your problem cannot be sorted in this way and you wish to make a complaint, we would like you to let us know as soon as possible – ideally, within a matter of days or at most a few weeks – because this will enable us to establish what happened most easily. If it is not possible to do that, please let us have details of your complaint:

* within 6 months of the incident that caused the problem; or
* within 6 months of discovering that you have a problem, provided this is within 12 months of the incident.

Complaints about the treatment you received should be made to the dentist who normally sees you. Alternatively, you may ask for an appointment for discussion in order to discuss your concerns. He/She will explain the complaints procedure to you and will ensure that your concerns are dealt with promptly. It will help if you are as clear as possible about your complaint.

*What We Shall Do*

We shall acknowledge your complaint within 2 working days and aim to have looked into your complaint within 10 working days of the date when you raised it with us. We shall then be in a position to give you an explanation, or offer a meeting with those involved.

In investigating your complaint, we shall aim to:

* find out what happened and what went wrong
* enable you to discuss the problem with those concerned, if you would like this;
* ensure you receive an apology, where this is appropriate;
* identify what we can do to make sure the problem does not happen again.

*Complaining on Behalf of Someone Else*

Please note that we keep strictly to the rules of confidentiality. If you are complaining on behalf of someone else, we have to know that you have the permission to do so. A note signed by the person concerned will be needed, unless that are incapable of providing this because of physical or mental illness or are a child under 16 years.

*Complaining to Dental Complaints Service*

We hope that, if you have a problem, you will make use of our practice complaints procedure. We believe this will provide the best chance of putting right whatever has gone wrong and an opportunity to improve our practice. However, this does not affect your right to complain to the Dental Complaints Service, if you feel you cannot raise your complaint with us or you are dissatisfied with the result of our investigation.

If you wish for further advice, you should contact:

* Dental Complaints Service

Stephenson House

2 Cherry Orchard Rd

Croydon

CR0 6BA

E-mail: info@dentalcomplaints.org.uk

Tel. 020 8253 0800

You may also like to contact the General Dental Council for more advice.

* General Dental Council

37 Wimpole Street

London

W1M 8DQ

E-mail: Complaints@gdc-uk.org

Tel. 020 7887 3800

For patients with a Denplan payment plan, contact the Clinical Mediation and Risk Management team for advice at:

* Simplyhealth Professionals

Email: clinicalmediationservice@denplan.co.uk

Tel. 0800 169 7220

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**COMMENTS - COMPLIMENTS - COMPLAINTS**

We are happy to consider any suggestions you may have that would improve the service we provide.

Comments and compliments are always welcome. We also operate a Practice Complaints Procedure for dealing with complaints which adheres to National Criteria. Our Practice Manager Lisa Ridout will give you further information and a leaflet giving details of the procedure is available from Reception.

Our aim is to give you the highest possible standard of service and we try to deal swiftly with any problems that may occur.

**HELP US TO HELP YOU.**