

Do I need emergency treatment?

Don't take any unnecessary risks. If you're experiencing a dental problem, these questions will help you decide if you need to be seen for urgent treatment. If you are at all unsure, please call us on our normal practice number. A member of our practice team will then be able to advise you on the action you should take.

Bleeding

1. Is it following a tooth extraction? **If yes**, have you bitten on the gauze provided for 15 minutes?
If you haven't, there's no need to book yet
If you have, book an emergency appointment ASAP
2. Is it your gums that are bleeding? **If yes**, this is not urgent and there is no need to book
3. Was the bleeding caused by a blow or other trauma to your mouth? **If yes**, book an appointment ASAP

Swelling

1. Have you noticed a swelling around the tooth or can it be seen on the outside of your face?
2. Does the swelling extend to your eye/neck? **If yes**, book an emergency appointment ASAP
3. Is the swelling affecting your vision, your breathing or is it preventing you from opening your mouth more than two fingers wide? **If yes to any of these**, go straight to A&E

Trauma

1. Has the trauma caused you to experience any loss of consciousness, blurred vision or vomiting? **If yes to any of these**, go straight to A&E and call the practice
2. Has the trauma broken a tooth or has a tooth fallen out? **If yes to either**, book an emergency appointment ASAP

Pain

1. Is the pain making it hard to eat or affecting your sleep? **If yes**, this may be urgent but if the pain can be managed with pain-relief then consider the risk of attending an appointment before you book

Is attending an emergency appointment safe for you and others?

If you or anyone in your house is self-isolating, do not book an emergency appointment. If you are experiencing any possible symptoms, such as a continuous cough or a high temperature, do not book an emergency appointment but please contact us for advice.

If you do need to attend an emergency appointment at the practice, please follow the below guidelines:

1. Please come alone, unless you have children and don't have child care
2. Please come 10 minutes earlier than your appointment time to complete a medical form
3. Please bring reading glasses if you need them
4. Please bring a list of the medications you take

The following problems are non-urgent and do not require an emergency appointment:

- Loose or lost crowns, bridges or veneers
- Fractured or loose dentures
- Fractured, loose or displaced fillings
- Chipped teeth with no pain
- Loose wires on orthodontic appliances
- Bleeding gums