

Clinical Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Arrangements for urgent dental assessments for adult patients with congenital heart disease

SETTING	BRI, BHI, Cardiac Services
FOR STAFF	Healthcare staff who are in contact with adults with congenital heart disease
PATIENTS	Adults

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Adults with congenital heart disease (CHD) may present out of hours, on a routine outpatient clinic or as an inpatient with an urgent dental problem. Dental infection and poor oral health increases the risk of infective endocarditis so they should access dental care as early as possible.

Outpatients

Toothache

The patient should be advised of the risk of infective endocarditis and advised to book an urgent appointment with their general dentist.

If they do not have a general dentist they should dial 111 to access emergency dental provision. The Primary Care Unit (PCU) at Bristol Dental Hospital is able to see a limited number of emergency patients on Monday – Friday. This is on a first come first served basis and care is provided by supervised dental students. Doors open at 8am and queues frequently form from 7.30am.

Chronic infection

This may present as small discrete swellings on the gum or “gum boils” with or without associated pain. This should be managed as for toothache.

Swelling

If the patient has facial swelling they will be accepted by PCU between 8.30am – 4.30pm Monday - Friday. Please phone ahead to discuss with the dental team: extension **24375**. Outside PCU opening hours or if the patient is so unwell as to warrant admission the Maxillofacial team should be contacted via Switch.

Trauma

Dental trauma is most likely to present at the Emergency Department. During PCU opening hours patients with dental trauma will be accepted (see above). Out of hours, the Maxillofacial team should be contacted via Switch.

Inpatients

If an inpatient with CHD has dental pain or infection please contact the dental team on extension **24375**.

Before cardiac surgery

A pathway exists to ensure all patients are assessed and deemed “dentally fit” prior to planned cardiac surgery. This is available in a separate document via the South Wales and South West Congenital Heart Disease Network.

If a patient needs urgent dental assessment prior to cardiac surgery please contact the dental team on extension **24375** for advice.

Infective endocarditis

Patients diagnosed with infective endocarditis should have a dental assessment within 72 hours. Please contact the dental team on extension **24375** for advice.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Arrangements for urgent dental assessments for paediatric patients with congenital heart disease

Dental care pathway for adult congenital heart disease, South Wales and South West Congenital Heart Disease Network

AUTHORISING BODY

QUERIES

Contact xxxx ‘ Ext nnnn / Bleep nnnn – this does not need to be the author, but whoever might be best placed (particularly 24/7) to answer a query.