Guidance for Referring Dentists on Level 1 Paediatric Dental Care provided in General Dental Practice

This guidance outlines the Level 1 paediatric dental care normally provided in general dental practice, based on NHS England's *Clinical standard: oral health and dental care for children and young people (2026)*.

It is intended to help dentists decide whether a child can be treated in general practice or requires referral to Community Dental Services.

Level 1 – Routine Dental Care

The conditions and treatments at Level 1 are those that can be performed or managed by a dentist whose competence is commensurate with the Curriculum for Dental Foundation Training or its equivalent, and include:

- Oral health assessment of need and circumstances, oral health review, risk screening and treatment planning including appropriate referral, where necessary, for all children.
- Evidence-based preventive care, advice and interventions.
- Restorations of primary and permanent teeth with the use of local anaesthesia where appropriate, including pulp therapies of primary molars and pre-formed metal crowns where appropriate.
- Uncomplicated endodontic treatment of permanent teeth.
- Simple partial dentures and removable space maintainers.
- Routine extraction of primary and permanent teeth under local anaesthesia.
- Emergency and urgent treatment and management of pain, infection and dento-alveolar trauma, including immediate management of avulsion injuries in line with International Association of Dental Traumatology guidelines.
- Timely identification and referral of significant developmental defects of the dental tissues and disturbances of the developing dentition.
- Management of dento-alveolar traumatic injuries to the primary and permanent dentition (for example subluxation and mild luxation injuries of primary and permanent teeth; uncomplicated crown fracture of primary or permanent incisors).
- Appropriate referral of children requiring more complex treatment that is Level 2, 3a or 3b.

Referral Guidance

If you are referring a patient whose care appears to be Level 1, please state why this referral is required.

Source and Further Reading

NHS England – Clinical standard: oral health and dental care for children and young people (2026), ...