

Direct Access To Dental Hygienist And Dental Therapist

Direct Access means patients now have the option to access treatments from Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists directly!!!

As of May 1st 2013 The General Dental Council permits patients the option to directly access the services of a Dental Hygienist and/or Dental Therapists without out having to see a Dentist prior to their appointment. Previously, a Dentist had to examine a patient to prescribe any treatments.

Dental Hygienists/Therapists are registered trained dental professional who help patients maintain their oral health by preventing and treating periodontal disease and promoting good oral health practice. Our practice policy gives patients the option to access certain private treatments, within a Dental Hygienists/Therapists scope of practice directly without having to see a Dentist first. Not all treatments are included (please see below for full scope of practice of a Dental Hygienist/Therapists). If a referral to a dentist is necessary, the Hygienist or Therapist will explain the reasons for the referral and seek the patient's consent to be referred.

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BSc (Hons) Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy
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My intention is to improve the confidence of my patients by enhancing the radiance of the smile they present to the world. I believe the smile is the essence to life its self. A persons smile is their welcoming introduction, their sign of happiness and a catalyst to laughter. Everyone should own it and enjoy it #Live to smile

Six years ago I qualified from University with a BSc (Hons) in Dental Hygiene and Therapy. I initially spent some time working in a Harley Street Practice in London. However, the commute and time away from the beach brought me back full time to my home town of Bournemouth.

With a great interest and deep understanding in tooth whitening I have undergone further training to ensure maxim results for my patients. Tailoring each treatment plan to the individual.

#LIVETOSMILE

I provides a range of treatments via direct access please see link for a list and fees.

For booking or more information you can contact myself directly via email megan@livetosmile.com or phone 07590542160 or alternatively contact the practice on 01202 397039 and the helpful reception staff can arrange your direct access appointment.

Please be aware of the following important notes regarding Direct Access to the Dental Hygienist/Therapist.

- They must work within the extent of their training and must not undertake duties for which they have not been trained.
- If any issues are identified whilst performing their duties, they will advise a referral to a Dentist or necessary healthcare professional in the best interest of you, the patient or if something is outside their scope of practice of what they are allowed to do.
- Teeth whitening still requires a prescription and dental assessment for patient suitability from a Dentist. Allowing treatment to then be carried out by a Dental Hygienist/Therapist whilst a Dentist is on the premises.
- Please ensure you allow extra time when arriving for your appointment as a Medical History Questionnaire and direct access consent forms need to be completed prior to your appointment.

For further information regarding direct access please visit www.gdc-uk.org

DENTAL HYGIENIST AND DENTAL THERAPIST SCOPE OF PRACTICE

- Provide dental hygiene care to a wide range of patients.
- Obtain a detailed dental history from patients and evaluate their medical history.
- Carry out a clinical examination within their competence.
- Complete periodontal examination and charting and use indices to screen and monitor periodontal disease.
- Diagnose and treatment plan within their competence.
- Prescribe radiographs.
- Take, process and interpret various film views used in general dental practice.
- Plan the delivery of care for patients.
- Give appropriate patient advice.
- Provide preventive oral care to patients and liaise with dentists over the treatment of caries, periodontal disease and tooth wear.
- Undertake supragingival and subgingival scaling and root surface debridement using manual and powered instruments.
- Use appropriate anti-microbial therapy to manage plaque related diseases.
- Adjust restored surfaces in relation to periodontal treatment.
- Apply topical treatments and fissure sealants.
- Give patients advice on how to stop smoking.
- Take intra and extra-oral photographs.
- Give infiltration and inferior dental block analgesia.
- Place temporary dressings and re-cement crowns with temporary cement.
- Place rubber dam.
- Take impressions.
- Care of implants and treatment of peri-implant tissues.
- Identify anatomical features, recognise abnormalities and interpret common pathology.
- Carry out oral cancer screening.
- If necessary, refer patients to other healthcare professionals.
- Keep full, accurate and contemporaneous patient records.
- If working on prescription, vary the detail but not the direction of the prescription according to patient needs.

In addition to the above, Therapist can also:

- Carry out direct restorations on primary and secondary teeth
- Carry out pulpotomies on primary teeth
- Extract primary teeth
- Place preformed crowns on primary teeth

Additional skills which Dental Hygienists/Therapists might develop include:

- Tooth whitening to the prescription of a dentist.
- Administering inhalation sedation.
- Removing sutures after the wound has been checked by a dentist.

The above information is taken from The General Dental Council (GDC)

If you require more information on any of the above please ask at the reception or visit the GDC website www.gdc-uk.org

