

# Gateway Dental

## Code of Practice for Patient Complaints

In this practice we take complaints very seriously and we try to ensure that all patients are pleased with their experience of our service. When patients complain, they are dealt with confidentiality, courteously and promptly so that the matter is resolved as quickly as possible. This procedure is based on these objectives.

Our aim is to react to complaints in the way in which we would want our complaint about a service to be handled. We learn from every mistake that we make and we respond to patients' concerns in a caring and sensitive way.

1. The person responsible for dealing with any complaint about the service which we provide is George Billis, the practice Complaints Manager.
2. If a patient complains by telephone or in person, we will listen to their complaint and offer to refer him or her to the Complaints Manager immediately. If the Complaints Manager is not available at the time, then the patient will be told when they will be able to talk to the Complaints Manager and arrangements will be made for this to happen within 48 hours. The member of staff will make a written record of the complaint and provide the patient with a copy as well as passing it on to the Complaints Manager. If we cannot arrange this within a reasonable period or if the patient does not wish to wait to discuss the matter, arrangements will be made for someone else to deal with it.
3. If a complaint is about any aspect of clinical care or associated charges it will normally be referred to the dentist concerned, unless the patient does not want this to happen.
4. If the patient complains in writing or by email it will be passed on immediately to the Complaints Manager.
5. The Complaints Manager will acknowledge the patient's complaint in writing and enclose a copy of this code of practice as soon as possible and in any event within 5 working days. We will offer to discuss the complaint at a time agreed with the patient, asking how the patient would like to be kept informed of developments, for example, by telephone, face to face meetings, letters or e-mail. We will inform the patient about how the complaint will be handled and the likely time that the investigation will take to be completed. If the patient does not wish to discuss the complaint, we will still inform them of the expected timescale for completing the process.
6. We will seek to investigate the complaint speedily and efficiently and we will keep the patient regularly informed, as far as reasonably practicable, as to the progress of the investigation.
7. When we have completed our investigation, we will provide the patient with a full written report. The report will include an explanation of how the complaint has been considered, the conclusions reached in respect of each specific part of the complaint, details of any necessary remedial action and whether the practice is satisfied with any action it has already taken or will be taking as a result of the complaint.
8. Proper and comprehensive records are kept of any complaint received as well as any actions taken to improve services as a consequence of a complaint.
9. If patients are not satisfied with our response to their complaint, then a complaint may be made to:

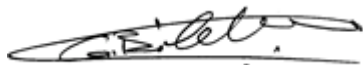
-NHS England at [England.contactus@nhs.net](mailto:England.contactus@nhs.net). Telephone: 03003112233, NHS England PO BOX 16738, Redditch, B97 9PT

-The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman, Millbank Tower, Millbank London SW1P 4QP, Tel: 0345 015 4033

-The Dental Complaints Service Stephenson House 2 Cherry Orchard Road, Croydon CR0 6BA, Tel: 08456 120 54, [info@dentalcomplaints.co.uk](mailto:info@dentalcomplaints.co.uk)

-CQC Share your experience, Tel: 03000 616161, [enquiries@cqc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cqc.org.uk)

-The General Dental Council, 37 Wimpole Street, London, W1M 8DQ, Tel: 0207 1676000 (the dentists' registration body)



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