

# Periodontology and Preventive Dentistry

You have been referred to the department of Periodontology and Preventive Dentistry. This leaflet explains more about your appointment in our clinic.

## About your appointment

You will have a full dental examination and possibly x-rays to find out about the problem with your gums and teeth. We will explain to you what we think the problem is. We will also write to the General Dental Practitioner who referred you to us with advice on how to manage your gum condition.

This is a teaching hospital so you may be examined by dental students under the supervision of senior staff. Please expect your appointment to last most of the morning or afternoon.

## Hospital treatment

Most periodontal (gum) disease does not require treatment in a hospital. However, if you require treatment we will arrange a follow-up appointment in hospital.

If you are suitable for treatment by undergraduate students, we may offer you treatment in our undergraduate student clinic. This treatment will be provided by dental students and will be supervised by qualified staff under the supervision of a senior dentist.

*Please note: Student treatment is not included in the NHS target to treat patients within 18 weeks of referral. It is not carried out at certain times of the year due to students having academic breaks.*

The type of treatment students can carry out is limited by their experience and you may need more treatment (such as surgery) afterwards. This would need to be carried out by an experienced dentist and you may need to seek such treatment outside the Dental Institute, which will involve you being referred back to your General Dental Practitioner. The senior dentist will explain this to you. Any treatment you receive here will, almost certainly, improve your gum condition.

You need to be under the care of a General Dental Practitioner who can deal with emergencies and your dental health while you have treatment in the department. We are unfortunately unable to offer ongoing general dental care to our patients.

## Contact us

If you have any questions about your appointment, please call the department on 020 7188 8006.

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit [www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/leaflets](http://www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/leaflets)

### Your comments and concerns

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). To make a complaint, contact the complaints department.

t: 020 7188 8801 (PALS) e: [pals@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@gstt.nhs.uk)  
t: 020 7188 3514 (complaints) e: [complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk)

### Language Support Services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch:

t: 020 7188 8815 e: [languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk)

### NHS 111

Offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day.

t: 111

### NHS Choices

Provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make choices about your health.

w: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

### Get involved and have your say: become a member of the Trust

Members of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust contribute to the organisation on a voluntary basis. We count on them for feedback, local knowledge and support. Membership is free and it is up to you how much you get involved. To find out more, and to become a member:

t: 0800 731 0319 e: [members@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:members@gstt.nhs.uk) w: [www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/membership](http://www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/membership)

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