

## REFERRAL GUIDELINES: DENTAL



### Essential Referral Content

Demographic	Clinical
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date of birth</li> <li>• Contact details (including mobile phone)</li> <li>• Referring GP details</li> <li>• Interpreter requirements</li> <li>• Medicare number</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reason for referral</li> <li>• Duration of symptoms</li> <li>• Relevant pathology &amp; imaging reports</li> <li>• Past medical history</li> <li>• Current medications</li> </ul>

[The Alfred Outpatient Referral Form](#) is available to print and fax to the Outpatient Department on 9076 6938



### Exclusion Criteria

**The Alfred Dental Unit provides specialized dental treatment of medically complex patients. Medically fit patients are not seen at The Alfred except in emergency circumstances.**

The Alfred Dental Unit is unable to provide:

- Crowns
- Bridge work
- Endodontic treatment

The following services are not provided unless in special circumstances:

- Maintenance dentistry (cleaning, dental check ups)
- Restorative treatments
- Children under 18 years of age are not seen at The Alfred.
- Patients who are being treated for the same condition at another Victorian public hospital

## REFERRAL PROCESS: DENTAL



### STEP 1

You will be notified when your referral is received by outpatients.

Essential referral content will be checked and you may be contacted for further information if required.



### STEP 2

The referral is triaged by the specialist unit according to clinical urgency.

This determines how long the patient will have to wait for an appointment.



### STEP 3

Patients with **urgent** conditions are scheduled to be seen within 30 days. Patients with **routine** conditions are given the next available appointment according to clinical need.

Both the referrer and patient are notified.

**Please note:** The times to assessment may vary depending on size and staffing of the hospital department.

**If you are concerned about the delay of the outpatient appointment or if there is any deterioration in the patient's condition, please contact the Dental Registrar on call on 9076 2000.**

## REFERRAL PRIORITY: **DENTAL**

The clinical information provided in your referral will determine the triage category. The triage category will affect the timeframe in which the patient is offered an appointment.

<p><b>IMMEDIATE</b></p> <p><b>Direct to the Emergency &amp; Trauma Centre</b></p>	<p><b>URGENT</b></p> <p><b>Appointment timeframe within 30 days</b></p>	<p><b>ROUTINE</b></p> <p><b>Appointment timeframe greater than 30 days depending on clinical need</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk of airway obstruction</li> <li>• Bleeding in haemophilia patients</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs of oral infection with immunocompromise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low grade infections</li> <li>• Periodontal disease</li> <li>• Undiagnosed oral swelling</li> <li>• Partially erupted, chronically inflamed wisdom teeth</li> </ul>
<p>Phone the Dental Registrar on call on 9076 2000 and/or send to The Alfred Emergency &amp; Trauma Centre.</p>	<p>Urgent cases must be discussed with the Dental Registrar on call to obtain appropriate prioritisation and then a referral letter faxed to 9076 6938.</p>	<p>Fax referral to 9076 6938</p>

If you are concerned about the delay of the outpatient appointment or if there is any deterioration in the patient’s condition, please contact the Dental Registrar on call on 9076 2000.

## Referral Guideline Contents



[Anticoagulants](#)

[Haemophilia](#)

[Bone Marrow Transplantation](#)

[Heart Valves](#)

[Diabetes](#)

[HIV/Infectious Diseases](#)

[Head & Neck Malignancies](#)

[Organ transplantation](#)

### ANTICOAGULANTS

Evaluation	Management	Referral Guidelines
Medical history Medications Duration of dental problem Warfarin dose INR Reason for anticoagulation	Maintain Warfarin unless outside therapeutic guidelines.	Refer—Urgent

### BONE MARROW TRANSPLANTATION

Evaluation	Management	Referral Guidelines
Medical history Medications, bisphosphonates Duration of dental problem FBE		If pre-transplant, refer—Urgent If post-transplant, refer—Routine

### DIABETES

Evaluation	Management	Referral Guidelines
Medical history Medications Duration of dental problem Insulin HbA1c		If unstable diabetes with oral infection, urgent dental attention is required , refer - Urgent  Stable type II diabetics are not routinely seen at The Alfred Dental Clinic

### HEAD AND NECK MALIGNANCIES

Evaluation	Management	Referral Guidelines
Medical history Medications Duration of dental problem Tumour type and histology Details of radiotherapy		If pre-operation, refer—Urgent  If post-operation, refer—Routine

## HAEMOPHILIA

Evaluation	Management	Referral Guidelines
Medical history Medications Duration of dental problem		If bleeding, send IMMEDIATELY to The Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre.  Otherwise refer—Routine

## HEART VALVES

Evaluation	Management	Referral Guidelines
Medical history Medications Duration of dental problem Warfarin dose INR Reason for anticoagulation		Any oral infection in a patient with heart valve needs to be assessed urgently, refer - Urgent  If pre-surgery, refer—Urgent  Patients post-surgery are not routinely seen at The Alfred Dental Clinic unless anticoagulated

## HIV/INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Evaluation	Management	Referral Guidelines
Medical history Medications Duration of dental problem CD4 count Other viral serology eg Hepatitis C		If immunocompromised with oral infection, urgent dental attention is required, refer - Urgent  Patients with CD4 count >150 are not routinely seen at The Alfred Dental Clinic

## ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION

Evaluation	Management	Referral Guidelines
Medical history Medications Duration of dental problem Degree of immunosuppression Type of therapy		If immunocompromised with oral infection, urgent dental attention is required; refer - Urgent  If pre-transplant, refer –Urgent  Stable patients are not routinely seen at The Alfred Dental Clinic