

What to expect at your assessment visit

You have been referred to the community dental service for an assessment

Our team includes:

- Receptionists
- Dental therapists and dentists
- Dental nurses
- Office staff

We are here to help you feel comfortable

You will be sent a link before the appointment to answer questions about your health. We may need to ask more questions at your assessment visit about your general health. We will talk about your dental problems or worries and how you currently care for your teeth.

During the assessment:

- We will check your mouth, gums and teeth.
- We may need to take some x-rays or photographs of your teeth. We use x-rays to look for signs of decay or infection in and around teeth that cannot be seen by looking in the mouth. The x-rays may show additional teeth which need treatment.
- Make a plan for how we will manage any decayed or poorly teeth
- Give advice to help keep your mouth healthy.

We will not do any fillings or extractions on the first appointment.

What happens next?

Some options to help you have treatment are:

- Treatment with local anaesthetic - an injection to numb the gum and make treatment feel comfortable.
- Treatment with local anaesthetic and Inhalation sedation (also known as **happy air**) - you will stay awake for the treatment but may feel more relaxed. This is given through

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a small nose piece. This type of treatment is not suitable for very young children and your child will still need to be able to lie on the dental chair and have an injection.

- Treatment with local anaesthetic and intravenous sedation - for adults only, a deeper form of sedation which is given through a cannula in the hand or arm.
- General Anaesthetic - this involves going to sleep for treatment, usually at Arrowe Park hospital. This is not appropriate for everyone and will be discussed by your dentist if it is an option. If treatment is being undertaken under general anaesthetic **all decayed or very worn teeth must be removed**, including front teeth.

This is to prevent further pain and/or infection from teeth, to prevent damage to any adult teeth developing and to prevent the need for another general anaesthetic for dental extractions in a short space of time.

Any **very wobbly teeth** will also be removed for safety reasons.

A general anaesthetic carries a small risk of life-threatening complications which is why all decayed or worn teeth need to be extracted to avoid increasing this risk with multiple anaesthetics'

- We may also suggest the use of stainless-steel crowns to treat early decay in baby teeth. These are silver coloured crowns which are placed over the decayed tooth. This type of treatment has been shown to last longer and be more effective than fillings for these teeth.
- Please note, If we find any additional decayed teeth during this appointment, we will recommend treatment for these teeth as well. This is standard practice, to prevent any further dental pain or infection, and in some cases, to avoid the risk of repeated general anaesthetic.

Please tell us before your visit if you need:

Anything else to help make your visit easier or if you wish to discuss any possible reasonable adjustments for example, help getting into the dental chair or information in another format or language.

Opening hours:

Monday - Thursday 8.30am - 5.00pm

Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm

St Catherine's Health Centre Dental Clinic

0151 514 6420

Victoria Central Health Centre Dental Clinic

0151 514 6266

Leasowe Dental Clinic

0151 514 2340

Out of Hours:

Out of Hours Service 111

Revive Dental Care

0161 476 9651

If you would like this information in another format or language, please contact the Your Experience Team on freephone 0800 694 5530. Alternatively you can email wcnt.yourexperience@nhs.net

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