

Chapel Road Orthodontics we are proud of our reputation for providing high quality orthodontic care under the NHS to patients below the age of 18. We are committed to the continuation of this service so that the children in our community have the opportunity to benefit from having lovely straight teeth and a beautiful smile.

### Who qualifies for NHS funding

Access to NHS orthodontic treatment is now determined by two factors:

- **Clinical need:** Orthodontics is now rationed by the Department of Health to those children with the greatest need for treatment. This need is determined by the Index of Orthodontic Treatment Need (see our IOTN grading procedure).
- **Age:** Another factor that determines whether or not a prospective orthodontic patient has access to NHS orthodontic treatment is age. Funding is only available to patients below the age of 18. Your Dentist will need to refer you to us by the age of 16 ½ due to the length of the waiting list.

### NHS waiting lists

Unfortunately, there are waiting lists for NHS orthodontic treatment. The main reason for this is a shortage of funding.

Each year, Chapel Road Orthodontics receives around 2,500 new patient referrals from over 200 dentists in the Southeast London / West Kent area. Orthodontic waiting lists are established when public demand exceeds the ability of local resources to provide care.

### Capping of NHS contracts

There is a cap on the number of NHS orthodontic patients that the PCT is able to fund in any one year. At Chapel Road Orthodontics we always fulfill our NHS quotas.

The PCT (Primary Care Trust) is working hard to bring orthodontic waiting times down but, as with many areas of the Health Service, they are constrained by their budget.

All parents/guardians of patients are informed regarding the waiting list system that is being used, the probable length of wait and, in the light of IOTN restrictions, the access criteria for NHS.

### How it works

NHS referrals are placed on our waiting list and are seen in strict order of arrival. The only exception to this is where, for genuine clinical reasons, the referring dentist considers that an urgent opinion is required - for example, where advice on the urgent extraction of teeth is requested.

NHS treatment, for qualifying cases, is then available up to 18 years of age. Complex cases may be referred on to the hospital service, as necessary.

We advise you to contact your Dentist to confirm they have sent your referral if you have not heard from us within two weeks after you have been referred.

**Please note that mild cases are no longer funded by the NHS. Please visit our web site [www.chapelroad.co.uk](http://www.chapelroad.co.uk) for further details.**