

Guidelines for the referral of patients

- Circus Orthodontics provides comprehensive, specialist-led orthodontic care on a referred and self-referred basis for adults and children.
- All referred patients should have a good standard of oral hygiene and should be dentally fit (unless the referral is for advice on the removal of teeth).
- All referred patients should be made aware of the need to attend our Practice on a regular basis during their orthodontic treatment. An “average” course of fixed appliance orthodontic treatment is between 18 to 24 months in duration with review appointments every 6 to 8 weeks.
- Private assessment options and treatment fee guides are available [here](#).
- NHS assessment and treatment (subject to NHS treatment acceptance criteria) is available for patients under 18 years of age and private assessment and treatment is available for all ages.
- Most patients will benefit from an orthodontic referral at or just before the completion of their permanent dentition (excepting second and third permanent molars).
- Referrals before the age of 10 years of age should not be made unless:
 - A tooth (usually an incisor) is in crossbite with an associated displacement.
 - There are developmentally absent teeth.
 - There are impacted teeth.
 - There is a significant class II skeletal base pattern with an overjet greater than 7mm.
 - Advice on early extraction of permanent teeth is required.
 - Other exceptional circumstances.

NHS Orthodontic Treatment

- All patients under 18 years of age are entitled to an NHS orthodontic assessment.
- Patients referred for an NHS orthodontic assessment are usually assessed within 12 weeks of Circus Orthodontics receiving the referral.
- In order to be accepted for NHS orthodontic treatment, a patient must be assessed as having a need for orthodontic treatment according to the Index of Treatment Need (IOTN).
- John Kerrigan and Graham Edwards have both been trained and calibrated in the application of IOTN.
- If a patient is assessed as having a need for orthodontic treatment and is ready to commence orthodontic treatment, they will be added to the NHS orthodontic treatment waiting list (further information can be found [here](#)).
- If we are not able to fully assess the orthodontic treatment needs for a patient (for example if they still have deciduous teeth present) then we will arrange to review and assess them at the appropriate stage of their dental development. Once they are ready to commence NHS orthodontic treatment, they will be added to the NHS orthodontic treatment waiting list.