

## Appointment Management and Cancellation Policy

It is the aim of this practice to provide quality dental care to our patients and to use clinical time effectively. To achieve this aim, we have an appointment management and cancellation policy.

### Management of appointments

We invest in the latest technology, to allow our patients to make or reschedule appointments easily. Our appointment system supports timely access to care and treatment, allows patients to access services at a time that suits them and minimises the length of time people have to wait. Appointments can be made or rescheduled by calling our dedicated appointments line on 02028 997 8899.

### Reminders

E-mail reminders are sent to patients 2 days before any appointment and patients are requested to inform the practice of any changes to their contact details. It is the responsibility of the patient to provide the correct email address to the practice.

### Cancellation or delay of an appointment by the practice

We will only cancel or delay a patient's appointment in unavoidable circumstances. In such cases, we will take the following steps:

- The patient will be contacted as soon as the practice is aware of the need to cancel or delay the appointment. We will explain the reason for the cancellation or delay
- At the time of contact, the patient will be offered a new appointment at the earliest time available
- If the patient is unable to commit to a new appointment during that contact, we will ask them to get in touch at a later time, when we will offer them a priority appointment

### Cancellation of an appointment, late attendance or missed appointment by a patient

Patients are requested to give at least 24 hours' notice to cancel any booked appointment.

If an appointment is on a Monday, you must cancel that appointment by the previous Friday as we are unable to respond to messages over the weekend.

Cancellations should be made by telephone on: 0208 997 8899 or by email. Late cancellations and missed appointments represent a cost to the practice both financially and clinically when other patients could have been seen in the time set aside for the patient.

Late attendance is considered to be when a patient arrives 15minutes after the scheduled appointment time. This will be seen and will be charged as a late cancellation.

We do not make charge for NHS patients for late cancellations or missed appointments. However, we have the right to ask a patient to find another dental practice for their dental needs if they continue to miss appointments.

**If one or more NHS dental appointment(s)** is/are missed or canceled with less than 24 hours' notice, we do not guarantee being able to complete a patient's NHS treatment or offer them NHS treatment in the future.

There is a fee for private dental appointments that are missed or canceled with less than 24 hours' notice. The fee is based on the length of the appointment (£1 for every minute) and can be found in the private fees list.



It is our aim to telephone or write to patients after a missed appointment to understand the reason for non-attendance and to inform them about any fee or decision about their NHS dental care. We understand that cancellations are sometimes unavoidable due to illness or emergencies and we will take account of all valid circumstances.

Any appeals about missed or cancelled appointment decisions by a patient should be made in writing to the Practice Manager Arezoo Wilson.

