

Domiciliary Care Policy

Introduction

Domiciliary Care is care provided to patients who cannot get to the dental practice. This includes residents of nursing homes, schoolchildren in a school setting (not part of a screening programme), hospital in-patients, and home visits.

Patients who are unable to access dental surgery should not be unduly disadvantaged and should have equitable oral health outcomes in terms of self-esteem, appearance, social interaction, function, and comfort. This requires careful assessment and treatment planning that considers all factors.

The aim is to deliver appropriate oral healthcare in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

At least one dentist and one dental nurse will attend each domiciliary appointment. If the dental problem relates to hygiene, it may be appropriate for a hygienist or therapist and dental nurse to attend.

A risk assessment will be completed before any domiciliary visits to highlight any health & safety risks and whether a medical emergency kit is required.

Preparation that is required prior to any domiciliary visit

Health and Safety Considerations

- A risk assessment must be completed
- Staff protection
- Chaperoning
- Employer's liability would need to be checked to make sure nurses are covered. Self-employed staff would need to make sure they have insurance in place.
- Personal protection
- Manual handling
- Insurance for travel – vehicles and carrying passengers
- Insurance for equipment
- Separate registration as a Waste Carrier

Equipment considerations

The equipment and general kit to be selected for a domiciliary visit is assessed based on the following:

- Frequency of use
- Types of treatment

- Facilities available
- Ease of adequate decontamination
- Weight of equipment
- Ease of transportation
- Cost

Infection control considerations

- Hand hygiene facilities may be inadequate depending on the location of the visit, so hand gel must always be carried.
- Where possible, single-use items will be used to reduce the number of contaminated instruments that need to be transported.
- Transportation of instruments—clean and dirty—We follow a triple-packaged policy. The instruments go back into the pouch, then into a plastic, secure, lidded box, which goes into a larger box in the vehicle.
- A small sharps bin would be required
- Waste should be segregated and transported back to the practice in suitable containers.

A list of common items required can be found at the bottom of this policy.

Medical Emergency considerations

Non-invasive dental treatment

This would include:

- Exam
- Oral health assessment
- Providing dentures

A medical emergency kit would not necessarily be required for these treatments, but a risk assessment should be completed before any domiciliary visits, as this will identify if the emergency kit is needed. (CQC dental Mythbuster 24)

Invasive dental treatment

A medical emergency can arise during any dental treatment. Generally, the dental team should always carry a medical emergency kit with them for any domiciliary visits involving invasive dental treatment. The exception to this may be if the dental team is visiting a care home where a full medical emergency kit is available if required, and there has been a prior agreement that this would be available to the dental team during their appointment.

If taking a full medical emergency kit to a domiciliary visit, the following considerations would be required.

The car owner **must**:

- inform their insurance company that they are carrying oxygen (there is normally no extra charge for healthcare professionals to transport oxygen)
- secure the oxygen cylinder in the car to stop it rolling around
- carry an oxygen safety data sheet and card (some suppliers of oxygen will recommend you carry a transport emergency card (TREM) which explains what to do in an emergency)
- have a mobile phone to phone emergency services – if necessary

Consent

As a practice, we ensure that all patients give valid consent to treatment, which applies equally to patients receiving care in the domiciliary environment. We will check the patient's capacity to consent to treatment. If there is a lasting power of attorney in place, the dental team must take a copy of this. If the patient doesn't have the capacity or an LPA in place, a Court-Appointed Deputy will need to be assigned to act in the patient's best interests.

Confidentiality

In the domiciliary setting, where other people may be present, we will ensure that the practice's Confidentiality Policy is always adhered to.

Equipment

Consideration will need to be given to the equipment required for a domiciliary visit. The list below is taken from the British Society for Disability and Oral Health (BSDH) Domiciliary Guidelines. This is not an exhaustive list; additional items may be required depending on the need.

General Kit

- Portable light
- Portable suction
- Examination instruments such as mirror and probe
- Infection control items such as:
 - Gloves
 - Mask/Visor
 - Goggles (for the dentist, nurse and patient)
 - Aprons
 - Sharps bin
 - Hand gel
 - Plastic covers
 - Disinfectant wipes

- Waste bags
- Paper towels, tissues
- Box for carrying dirty instruments (this needs to be labelled with a biohazard symbol)
- Emergency equipment (if required)

Administration Items

- Identification
- Record cards or laptop for recording the patient notes
- Laboratory forms
- Post-op instruction leaflets
- Consent forms
- FP17's (if applicable)
- Prescription pad (if applicable)
- BNF (this may be available online)
- Mobile phone
- Pen & paper
- Medical history form

Prosthetics Kit

- Impression materials
- Impression trays & mixing equipment
- Portable motor, handpieces and burs
- Wax
- Pressure relief paste
- Bite registration material
- Wax knife
- Bite guage
- Denture pots
- Impression disinfectant
- Articulation paper
- Plastic bags
- Gauze
- Cotton wool rolls
- Fixative
- Impression disinfectant

Conservation Kit

- Portable unit (motor and suction)
- 3-in-1 syringe
- Handpiece and burs

- Light source
- Syringes, needles, needle guards
- Conservation instruments and tray

Materials

- Temporary dressing materials
- Restorative materials
- Matrix bands
- Gauze
- Suture materials
- Haemostatic materials
- Dry socket medicaments
- LA and topical anaesthetic
- Cotton wool rolls
- Vaseline

Perio Kit

- Hand scalers
- Portable ultrasonic scaler
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, interdental aids, mouthwash

Surgical Kit

- Syringes, needles, needle guards
- Mirror
- Forceps
- Elevators
- MOS instruments, including instruments for suturing.