

# **Code of practice for handling patient complaints**

We want our service to meet your expectations. If you have a concern or complaint about any aspect of our service, we want to know what mistakes we made and identify how we can improve to ensure that we meet your expectations in future. Our aim is to learn from any feedback we receive and improve the service we provide to our patients.

We will deal with complaints courteously and promptly and aim to resolve the matter as quickly as possible.

# Making a complaint

If you wish to make a complaint or simply let us know how we could have done better, please contact Jennah Mcglade our Complaints' Manager:

- By telephone on 01484 423701
- By email at jennah.mcglade@nhs.net
- By letter to Jennah Mcglade at 122 Trinity Street Huddersfield HD1 4DT.
- In person.

The Complaints' Manager usually works at the practice on Monday to Friday in-between 8:30am and 4:30pm and will endeavour to be available during these times. You may find it more convenient to make an appointment with Complaints' Manager to ensure that she can dedicate sufficient time to meet with you.

If you contact the practice to make a complaint and the Complaints' Manager is not available, we will arrange a convenient time for them to contact you. We will ask you for brief details of your complaint so that the Complaints' Manager can gather any useful information before contacting you.

If the matter requires a more immediate response, we will arrange for a senior member of the dental team to deal with it.

If your complaint is about your dental treatment or the fee charged, we will usually ask the dentist concerned to contact you, unless you do not want this.

We acknowledge all complaints in writing and enclose a copy of this code of practice as soon as possible, normally within 3 working days.

#### Investigating a complaint

We will investigate your complaint promptly (within 10 working days) or, if the issue is complex, within within 4 weeks.

## Records

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We keep proper and comprehensive records of any complaints that we receive and the action we have taken following investigation. We review these records regularly to ensure that we recognise our mistakes and take every opportunity to improve our service.

# If you are not satisfied

If your complaint was about your dental treatment and you are not satisfied with the result of our investigation, you can take up the matter with a relevant external organisation.

### For complaints about NHS treatment:

#### FNGI AND:

The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman, Millbank Tower, Millbank London SW1P 4QP (0345 015 4033 or www.ombudsman.org.uk).

### For complaints about private treatment:

Dental Complaints Service, 37 Wimpole Street, London W1G 8DQ (020 8253 0800 or online at https://contactus.gdc-uk.org/dcs/Complaint/PrivatePatients).

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