

Complaints handling policy (NHS treatment)

Code of practice for patient complaints

In this practice we take complaints very seriously and try to ensure that all our patients are pleased with their experience of our service. When patients complain, they are dealt with courteously and promptly so that the matter is resolved as quickly as possible. This procedure is based on these objectives.

Our aim is to react to complaints in the way in which we would want our complaint about a service to be handled. We learn from every mistake that we make and we respond to patients' concerns in a caring and sensitive way.

1. The person responsible for dealing with any complaint about the service that we provide is Erika Jalland, the practice Complaints Manager.
2. If a patient complains by telephone or in person, we will listen to their complaint and offer to refer him or her to the Complaints Manager immediately. If the Complaints Manager is not available at the time, then the patient will be told when they will be able to talk to the Complaints Manager and arrangements will be made for this to happen. The member of staff will make a written record of your complaint and provide the patient with a copy as well as passing it on to the Complaints Manager. If we cannot arrange this within a reasonable period or if the patient does not wish to wait to discuss the matter, arrangements will be made for someone else to deal with it.
3. If the patient complains in writing or by e-mail it will be passed on immediately to the Complaints Manager.
4. If a complaint is about any aspect of clinical care or associated charges it will normally be referred to the dentist concerned, unless the patient does not want this to happen.
5. We will acknowledge the patient's complaint in writing and enclose a copy of this code of practice as soon as possible, normally within 3 working days. We will inform the patient about how the complaint will be handled and the likely time that the investigation will take to be completed. If the patient does not wish to discuss the complaint, we will still inform them of the expected timescale for completing the process.
6. We will seek to investigate the complaint speedily and efficiently and we will keep the patient regularly informed, as far as is reasonably practicable, as to the progress of the investigation. Investigations will normally be completed within 6 months
7. When we have completed our investigation, we will provide the patient with a full written reply. The reply will include an explanation of how the complaint has been considered, the conclusions reached in respect of each specific part of the complaint, details of any necessary remedial action and whether the practice is satisfied with any action it has already taken or will be taking as a result of the complaint.
8. Proper and comprehensive records are kept of any complaint received as well as any actions taken to improve services as a consequence of a complaint
9. If patients are not satisfied with the result of our procedure then a complaint may be referred to:
 - PALS
 - Tel No. 0800 0283693(ask for PALS Officer)
 - Email: pals@nottspct.nhs.uk
 - Address: Complaints team
Freepost RRRZ-JBHB-JYRS

Patient Advice and Liaison Service
NHS Nottinghamshire County
NG21 0HG

- NHS ENGLAND
PO BOX 16738
Redditch
B97 9PT
0300 311 22 33
England.contactus@nhs.net
- The Health Service Ombudsman
 - Helpline Tel No 0345 0154033 (Mond-Frid 8.30am-5.50pm)
 - Address: The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman
Millbank Tower
Millbank
London
SW19 4QP
- The General Dental Council, 37 Wimpole Street, London, W1M 8DQ (the dentists' registration body) treatment

There will be an annual review of complaints with an aim of learning and improving our service.

Annual NHS complaints report (England)

It is important that all practices keep records of complaints and are able to provide details to their primary care trust or health board. Practices in England, however, must compile an annual report:

Annual NHS complaints report for the financial year ending 31 March [insert year]

Name of Contractor:

Contract number:

Practice name:

Practice address:

Number of NHS complaints received during the year

Number of NHS complaints received during the year, which I decided were well-founded

Number of NHS complaints, which I have been informed have been referred to the Health Services Commissioner or Local Commissioner (as appropriate)

Summary of NHS complaints received:

Signed by contractor/for and on behalf of contractor*

Print name:

Date: