

lowton dental centre



Welcome to [Lowton Dental Centre](#), founded by Dr Martin Kelly more than 20 years ago. We offer a full range of NHS and private treatment options for children and adults and believe our reputation and five-star reviews are testimony to the patient-centred care our team provides.



OUR SERVICES

At Lowton Dental Centre we offer a comprehensive NHS service for IOTN qualifying patients under the age of 18, as well as a full range of orthodontic treatments including conventional fixed appliances, aesthetic fixed appliances and Invisalign clear aligners for self-funding patients of all ages.

NHS Orthodontic Treatment Explained

The NHS currently funds (at no cost to the patient) orthodontic treatment for patients of 17 years of age and under that meet the NHS criteria (the 'IOTN'). This system means that funding is fairly directed towards the most severe cases and those children who will benefit from treatment most.

While NHS assessments are available to all patients (aged 17 and under) referred by their dentist, treatment is not available if the problem is too mild according to the IOTN score. NHS treatment is also unavailable to patients aged 18 years and older, or to those who have already undertaken a previous course of NHS treatment.

Initial assessment

PLEASE NOTE THAT PRACTICE POLICY IS APPOINTMENTS ARE OFFERED ON AN ALTERNATING BASIS, ONE IN SCHOOL TIME (09:00-15:15) AND ONE OUT OF SCHOOL TIME. THIS IS WITHOUT EXCEPTION, REGARDLESS OF AGE.

At an initial NHS assessment there will be some simple forms to fill out asking about medical and dental history. Our Orthodontic Therapist will then assess the teeth and discuss any problems with you. This might require the taking of X-rays, photographs or scans of the teeth. You may also be booked an Initial Assessment with one of our Dental Therapy team, this will ensure that you are 'dentally fit' to undergo orthodontic treatment. Dentally fit means that your toothbrushing is at a satisfactory standard and there is no outstanding dental work, such as cavities, that require attention. For us, good oral hygiene is not a position we will compromise on. We will work on it with you for a few visits, but if it shows no sign of improvement, you will be discharged back to your referring Dentist and removed from our waiting list.

Following the assessment, another appointment will be booked – your Orthodontic Treatment Plan. At this appointment, the nature of the problem will be discussed along with the need for and type of any treatment required. At the end of this visit you or your child will be placed into one of the following groups:

1. [Treatment waiting list](#) - for those patients that are ready to start treatment.
2. [Review](#) - for patients likely to need treatment but are not ready to start.
3. [Discharged](#) - for patients who do not wish to go ahead with treatment or who are not suitable on the grounds of treatment need, motivation, dental development (not enough adult teeth) or tooth brushing.
4. [Referral](#) - for a small number of patients with more complex problems, referral to the hospital orthodontic service for advice and/or treatment may be required.

Please note that for any patient under the age of 16, a Parent or Legal Guardian MUST be present at all appointments until consent forms are signed and the treatment plan is understood. Any patient who attends with a Grandparent or other person not able to give treatment consent will be re-booked. (Legal Guardians such as foster carers will be asked to prove their status).

What is IOTN?

Index of Orthodontic Treatment Need (IOTN) is a scale designed to measure the orthodontic need of a patient. It has two components:

- The Dental Health Component (DHC)
- The Aesthetic Component (AC)

The Dental Health Component (DHC) scale (1 to 5):

1 = no need

2 = little need

3 = borderline need

4 = need

5 = very great need

The Aesthetic Component (AC) scale (1 to 10):

1 to 4 = little or no need

5 to 7 = borderline need

8 to 10 = great need

NHS funded orthodontic treatment is normally restricted to individuals with a DHC of 5, 4 or 3 with an AC of 6 or more.

Detailed Application

When a patient presents for assessment, a standard procedure is used. Because orthodontic treatment needs to be justified on either dental health or aesthetic needs, there are two components to this index:

- The Dental Health Component (DHC)

- The Aesthetic Component (AC) - used only when the patient is assessed in DHC group 3 - this splits "group 3" up into 10 subcategories.
- The Dental Health Component of the IOTN has five categories ranging from 1 (no need for treatment) to 5 (great need).

The most severe trait is identified for any particular patient and the patient is then categorised according to this most severe trait.

The Dental Health Component uses an acronym - MOCDO - to guide the observer to the single worst feature of the malocclusion.

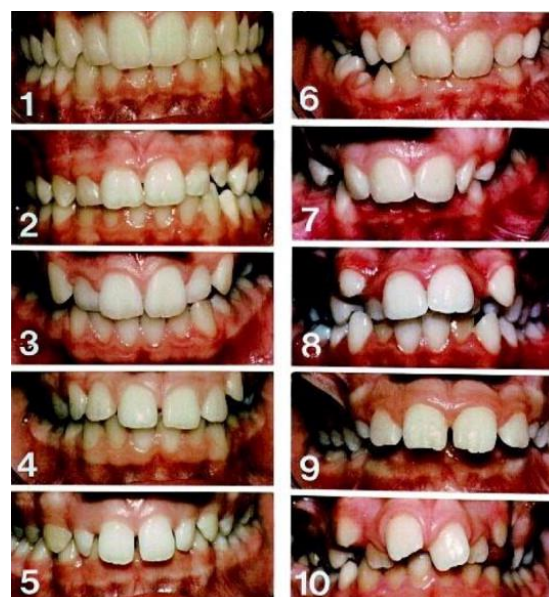
MOCDO represents: Missing teeth; Overjet; Crossbites; Displacement of contact points; Overbites.

Patients in Grade 5 would include those with Cleft Lip and Palate, multiple missing teeth or a destructive malocclusion.

The Aesthetic Component of the IOTN consists of a ten-point scale illustrated by a series of photographs which were rated for attractiveness by a lay panel and selected as being equidistantly spaced through the range of grades. A rating is allocated for overall dental attractiveness rather than specific similarities to the photographs. The final value reflects the treatment need on the grounds of aesthetic impairment and by implication the sociopsychological need for orthodontic treatment. Both parents and patients find this easy to apply and there is a high level of agreement between the scores obtained by dentists, parents and children.

There seems to be a general agreement that a DHC of less than 4 and an AC score of below 7 do not justify treatment.

The pictures below are used to assess the Aesthetic Component.





If You Do NOT Qualify

This is not necessarily the end of the journey. You will be offered a further appointment at which your IOTN score and eligibility for treatment will be re-assessed. If you are then still found not to qualify, we will discuss other options with you which may include:

1. 'Self-fund' NHS treatment. This means that you will receive exactly the same treatment as you would if you were being funded by the NHS, but you are funding it yourself. All of the same conditions attached to NHS treatment apply, we are just trying to make treatment more affordable for those who do not qualify but still want treatment. We also have several payment plans available.
2. Invisalign treatment is also available to 'teen' patients if this is a route that you would like to explore, but this must be fully funded privately. Again, we have several payment options to explore.

Patient Name

Signature of Parent or Guardian or
Patient if Over 16

Name of Signer

Date of Signature