

Shared care: What, When, Why and How?

Shared Care should be patient-focused and allow patients to receive care in a convenient manner, in a convenient location, from an appropriately trained clinician, whilst maintaining contact with their “family” dentist or other appropriate clinician (secondary care).
This care could encompass treatment from complex dental care to oral hygiene and preventive measures.

What is shared care?

When you need help from a fellow colleague, this is shared care.
In its simplest form, it could be sending a referral.
You may wish to create a continuing relationship with a fellow professional or service and this can be more difficult, although this may be the best care for your patient.
Shared care can be with a dental, medical or social care colleague, or any combination.

Why is shared care important?

A patient requires extractions and has haemophilia. On liaison with haematology, it is decided that extractions should be carried out at a site nearer the haematology department for pre and post treatment care; other treatment can be carried out by their own GDP.

A patient with Multiple Sclerosis requires urgent treatment carried out by a specialist team occasionally when his symptoms are severe. This requires a separate referral each time.

A 28 year old man with leukaemia prior to stem cell transplant. Assessment done by Aberdeen City dental staff at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, continued the treatment by Aberdeenshire dental staff liaising with the haematology department, maxillofacial surgery (acute sector) and city staff in order to complete treatment.

**As you can see from the examples, there are times when a patient’s needs can not be met by a single operator and there may be times where treatment is delayed due to the referral processes required.
However for care and continuity, it is appropriate that the care is coordinated in an effective manner.**

How do I develop and arrange shared care for my patient?

Firstly share care with the most important person - empower your patient to take control of their oral health and treatment options by asking questions.

Such as:

- Is this treatment necessary?
- What will happen if it does not get done?
- Are there alternative treatments?
- Can this be done at a more convenient location?

Dental Advice and Referral Centre		0345 4565990
Aberdeen Institute of Dentistry		01224 551901
Oral & Maxillo-facial department		01224 550673
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary		0345 456 6000
Social Work contact	Aberdeenshire	0345 608 1208
	Aberdeen City	0800 731 5520
	Moray	01343 543451

Advice may help; contact appropriate service by phone or email.

Refer for advice or treatment. Be clear about what services you can (or wish to) continue to provide for your patient and what outcome you want from the referral.