



Complaints Policy

If you have a complaint or concern about the service you have received from the dentist or any of the staff working in the practice, please let us know. We operate a practice complaints procedure. Our complaint system adheres to national criteria.

How To Complain

We hope most problems can be sorted out easily and quickly, at the time they arise and with the person concerned. If your problem can not be sorted in this way and you wish to make a complaint, we would like you to let us know as soon as possible – ideally, within a matter of days or at most then a few weeks – because this will enable us to establish what happened most easily. If it is not possible to do that, please let us have the details of your complaint:

- Within 6 months of the incident that caused the problem; or
- Within 6 months of discovering that you have a problem, provided this is within 12 months of the incident.

Complaints about the treatment you received should be made to the dentist who normally sees you. Alternatively, you may ask for an appointment with the practice manager in order to discuss your concerns. She will explain the complaints procedure to you and will ensure that your concerns are dealt with promptly. It will help if you are as clear as possible about your complaint.

What We Shall Do

We shall acknowledge your complaint within 3 working days and aim to have looked into your complaint within 10 – 21 working days of the date when you raised the complaint with us. We shall then be in a position to give you an explanation, or offer a meeting with those involved.

In investigating your complaint, we shall aim to:

- Find out what happened and what went wrong;
- Enable you to discuss the problem with those concerned, if you would like to do this;
- Ensure you receive an apology, where this is appropriate;
- Identify what we can do to ensure the problem does not happen again.

Complaining on Behalf of Someone Else

Please note that we keep strictly to the rules of confidentiality. If you are complaining on behalf of someone else, we have to know that you have been given permission to do so. A note signed by the person concerned will be needed, unless they are incapable of providing this because of physical or mental illness or are a child under 16 years of age.

Complaining To Dental Complaints Service

We hope that if you have a problem, you will make use of our practice complaints procedure. We believe this will provide the best chance of putting right whatever has gone wrong and an opportunity to improve our practice. However, this does not affect your right to complain to the Dental Complaints Service, if you feel you cannot raise your complaint with us or you are dissatisfied with the result of our investigation.

If you wish further advice you can contact:

Pals Complaints Team
PALS & Complaints,
Bay House,
Nicholson Road,
Torquay,
TQ2 7TD

Telephone: 01803 217397 or 01803 210597

Email: palsandcomplaints.tct@nhs.net

The General Dental Council
37 Wimpole Street,
London,
W1M 8DQ

Telephone: 020 7887 3800

Email: complaints@gdc-uk.org

For those patients registered with this practice with **Denplan**, please contact **Denplan** by telephone on: 0800 169 7220