

**1st October 2023**

Dear Patient,

As a valued patient of our practice, we are sure you will have experienced our whole team's dedication and commitment to providing you with the highest level of dental care, and that remains our key priority.

For over 50 years we have felt privileged to look after your care under the umbrella of the NHS. However, a chronic lack of investment in NHS dentistry, coupled with rapidly rising costs and significant recruitment issues means we can no longer provide the level of dental care you have come to expect under the NHS. Like many NHS practices across the UK, we are having to make crucial decisions to ensure our practice survives and is here to provide your dental care in the long-term. As such, we have made the decision to move away from the NHS and will no longer be seeing fee paying patients under NHS terms from the 1st October 2023.

For our existing fee-paying patients, we will be offering to provide treatment on a reduced private fee scale called the UDP Scheme. We have fought hard to get a contract to see existing exempt patients under the current NHS umbrella, which we have achieved. There will be no change for exempt patients if they are entitled to free NHS dental services. However please be mindful that these free NHS dental places are limited and if you do not attend regularly (see below) your place will be lost.

Those who are entitled to free NHS dental services are: • Under 18 years old • 18 years old and in full time education

- Maternity Exemption
- Income Support (Incapacity benefit and Disability living allowance does not count)
- Income based Jobseekers Allowance (Contribution-based does not count)
- Income-related Employment & Support Allowance (Contribution-related does not count)
- Pension Credit Guarantee Credit (Savings Credit on its own does not count)
- Universal Credit which meets the criteria find out more at ([www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/UC](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/UC))
- HC2 Certificate
- NHS Tax Credit Exemption Certificate/Card Your future appointments at the practice still stand, if you have any outstanding treatment under the current NHS scheme this will be completed under the NHS.

We would recommend regular examinations and hygiene appointments at a similar time frame you have been used to receiving, so we can spot issues early, potentially saving you from more invasive treatment in the future.

The practice will continue to accept any new under 18-year-olds, who have a family member registered under the UDP Scheme.

(continued...)

Your appointments can be tailored to suit you under the proviso that you attend regular appointments at the practice within the existing two-yearly registration. If you do not attend the practice within the two-year window, then unfortunately you will not be able to be seen under the UDP scheme. We hope you understand our reasons behind this very difficult decision.

Yours faithfully

**Paul Bason BDS – Practice Principal**  
Uttoxeter Dental Practice