

Paediatric Dentistry

The Paediatric Department provides treatment for children and young people up to the age of 16 years for patients with complex dental, medical and other needs.

Care may be provided by Specialist Paediatric Dentists, General Dentists or Oral Health Therapists. RDHM is a teaching hospital and therefore you may be treated by a specialist in training (i.e., a qualified dentist undergoing specialist training).

We care for patients who have:

- Complex dental needs.
- A disability.
- Complex medical needs.
- Developmental dental conditions such as supernumerary or 'extra' teeth, dilaceration (disturbance in the shape of the teeth), odontomes (benign tumour like tooth development), missing teeth, ankylosed teeth (fusion between a tooth and underlying bony support).
- Exhibit behaviours which require the child to be sedated for dental treatment.
- Interceptive orthodontics (early intervention to correct the growth of the jaw and certain bite problems).
- Early childhood caries ('decay') that require complex management.

Please be aware, we do not treat patients requiring general anaesthetic who have

- Type 1 diabetes.
- Blood dyscrasias or bleeding disorders.
- Severe respiratory disorders.
- Significant congenital cardiac disease

What happens once we receive a referral from your dentist?

Once we receive a referral from your dentist, we screen your referral. Screening involves:

Determining whether you meet our criteria to be seen. If the referral does not meet criteria, it will not be accepted, and your referring dentist will be informed. Please speak with your referring dentist. Determining how urgently you need to be seen.

We need all the requested information to be able to screen your referral. Your referring dentist must provide us with:

- Completed medical history.
- OPG (an Xray) provided, if able to.
- For Caries ('decay') Management:
 - Oral health education and prevention sessions are booked at least every 3 months.
 - Completed Caries management form.
- A detailed description and management plan of all other issues (if more than one specific issue present) that are being managed by the local clinic.

Once your referral has been screened, you will receive a letter notifying you of the outcome.

When you reach the top of the waiting list, you will receive a letter asking you to call the hospital to schedule an appointment.

What happens at your first appointment?

At the first visit your dentist will

- Complete a thorough assessment,
- Take radiographs (x rays) if required,
- Discuss different treatment options that may be suitable,
- And formulate a treatment plan with you.

To help prepare your child for their visit to the Children's Specialist Clinic, we recommend that you and your child watch the information videos prior to attending your appointment - [Specialist Children's Dentistry at RDHM](#)

These videos explain what to expect on the day and are designed to help children feel more familiar and at ease with the experience, so they arrive feeling more comfortable and prepared.

There is no treatment provided during this first visit.

What happens when my treatment finishes?

Your community dentist will refer you for specific treatment to be completed in our Specialist department. When this treatment is finished, your Specialist Dentist will discharge you from care at RDHM.

They will provide your referring dentist with a summary of the treatment provided. Your referring dentist will then continue to provide the dental treatment you require.

➤ [Preparing for your appointment](#)

➤ [Access at RDHM for people with disabilities](#)

Should you have any concerns please call:

The Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne

Emergency line
Phone: (03) 9341 1000
Open every day 8:30am - 5:00pm



www.rdhm.org.au