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WEST MIDLANDS LDN & OFFICE OF THE WEST MIDLANDS NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME

Welcome to the September edition of the LDN Newsletter for the West Midlands.

Attached to this Newsletter you will find the first of our “7 point briefings”. This briefing is an aide-memoire for clinicians on how to deal with dental neglect. It can be printed out and used as a poster, but it can also be used as a focus for staff meetings and team training. Thank you to Dhruvi Patel, one of our community dentists and clinical fellows, who developed it, with Sarah Clift, one of our safeguarding nurses.

We have an article from GDP Myria Akhtar who describes her experiences working in a CDS paediatric support practice.

There are lots of training resources in this issue. We have summarised online resources available for orthodontic, paediatric and cleft lip patients, as well as signposting Royal College of Surgeons and British Dental Association guidance on a range of issues. There is a message from Dave Pearson, the BSOL chair of the Oral Surgery Managed Clinical Network about TMD management and guidance.

As usual, details of Workforce Development and Training courses for the whole dental team are included and finally we have some information about taking part in Research in General Dental Practice.

I hope you find this edition useful.

Peter Thornley on behalf of West Midlands LDN Chairs

What's inside this Issue:

- 01 7 point briefing - Dental Neglect
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- 04 Training Opportunities
- 05 Treating Disadvantaged People - New Online Training and Workshop pack.
- 06 Diversifying your career
- 07 TMD Guidance and Mental Health Training
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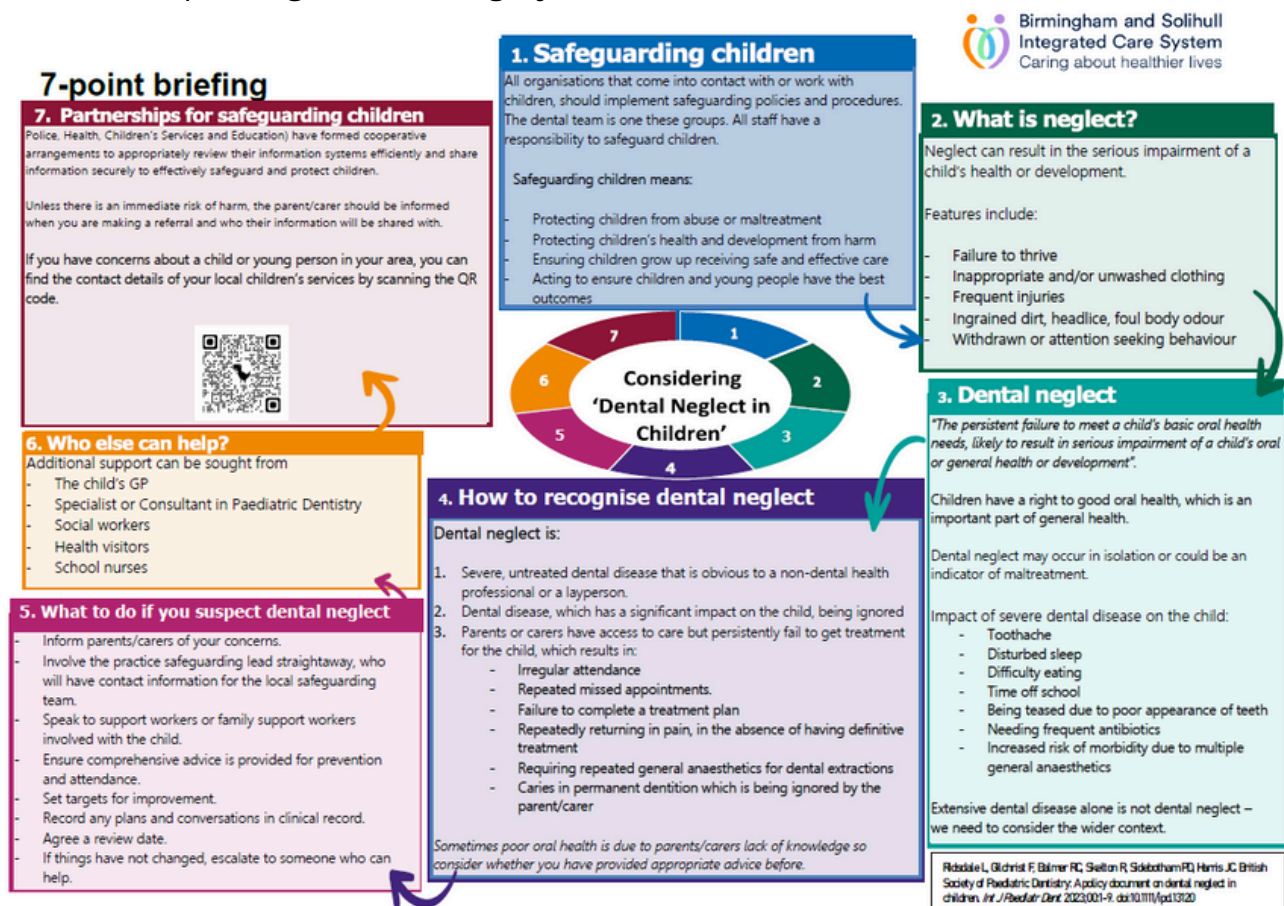
A simple aid to assist dental teams in managing dental neglect. "7 point Briefings."

Dhruvi Patel - Specialty Trainee in Paediatric Dentistry Community Dental Service

Every organisation that works with children should ensure that they are protected from harm by having safeguarding procedures and policies in place. This includes general dental practices. Neglect is one of the four categories of abuse, and it is defined as 'the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development'. A child that is failing to thrive, frequently injured or exhibiting behavioural problems may be being neglected. Good oral health is an important part of general health, and neglected children may not have their basic oral health needs met.



Dental neglect is a type of neglect and has been defined as 'the persistent failure to meet a child's basic oral health needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of a child's oral or general health or development' by the British Society of Paediatric Dentistry. Dental neglect may occur in isolation, or it may be an aspect of a wider pattern of neglect and abuse. Difficulty eating, dental pain and disturbed sleep are a few consequences of untreated severe dental disease. Consequently, although severe untreated dental disease alone is a serious matter, it needs to be considered within the context of the wider clinical and social picture. When a diagnosis of dental neglect is suspected, a thorough oral health assessment should be carried out by considering dental and non-dental factors, as well as any predisposing factors such as a restricted diet and prolonged use of sugary medications.



A simple aid to assist dental teams in managing dental neglect.

The Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care System (ICS) established a 'Neglect working group', which included the Safeguarding lead for children, the Managed Clinical Network Chair for Paediatric Dentistry, the Local Dental Network Chair, Leadership fellows and an educational lead, to name a few. Dental neglect is a topic that was identified as an area that dental teams could be better informed on, as maltreatment of children can present in the dental setting in numerous ways. Dental professionals are clinical experts of the oral cavity, therefore most likely to observe cases of dental neglect, and so it is important for the dental team to know how dental neglect manifests. The ICS has already produced '7-minute briefings' for healthcare professionals on various topics, so it was decided that the briefings for Safeguarding Children and Dental Neglect in children would be consistent with this format. Members of the Neglect working group were consulted to agree on the contents for the briefing. Guidance documents on safeguarding children and dental neglect produced by reputable sources were reviewed. Key information was selected and condensed to create a briefing poster (attached with this Newsletter).

The aim of the 7-point briefing is to provide an educational aid on safeguarding children and dental neglect that are tailored to dental professionals. The posters provide an overview on recognising the signs of dental neglect and the dental team's role in safeguarding children who are being neglected. The purpose of the briefing posters is to empower dental professionals to independently manage cases where possible, or to escalate cases when it is appropriate to do so by providing dental professionals in the region with easy access to contact information for their local children's services.

References:

- 1.National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Safeguarding Children and Child Protection. 2023. Available from: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection> [Accessed July 2024]
- 2.British Dental Association. Child Protection and the Dental Team – 1 - Responsibility. 2023. Available from: <https://bda.org/childprotection/Responsibility/Pages/default.aspx> [Accessed July 2024]
- 3.Harris JC, Balmer RC, Sidebotham PD. British Society of Paediatric Dentistry: a policy document on dental neglect in children. International Journal of Paediatric Dentistry. 2009 May 14;28(5):e14–21.
- 4.British Dental Association. Child Protection and the Dental Team – 2 – Recognising. 2023. Available from: <https://bda.org/childprotection/Recognising/Pages/Dental-neglect.aspx> [Accessed July 2024]
- 5.NHS England. Integrated Care – What are integrated care systems? 2023. Available from: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/integratedcare/> [Accessed July 2024]
- 6.Home Office. Working together to safeguard children: Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs. 2014. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/working-together-to-safeguard-children-multi-agency-safeguarding-hubs> [Accessed July 2024]

A PDF of the Dental Neglect 7 point briefing is attached with this Newsletter. Further briefings on child and adult safeguarding, and making referrals will be included in future editions.

Working as a CDS Paediatric Support Practice

Myria Akhtar GDP at The Dental Clinic, West Bromwich

The Role and objectives of the CDS Support Scheme

The CDS (Community Dental Service) support scheme was introduced in September 2022 to reduce waiting times caused by the pandemic. It focused on improving access for children to Level one dental services. The aim was to relieve pressure on speciality staff by enabling support practices to handle simpler cases. Two practices were recruited for each Integrated Care Service in the Midlands. All the dentists who took part attended blended online learning and hands-on sessions which refreshed techniques for placing Stainless Steel crowns (The Hall Technique) and applying Silver Diamine Fluoride. All participating practices received a 3M paediatric crown starter kit.

Achievements.

At our practice we successfully treated approximately 70% of paediatric patients referred to us within the practice. We performed extractions, fillings and root canal treatment on children under local anaesthetic. We enhanced the children's experience with incentives like superhero masks, stickers and tattoos, which increased their eagerness to attend.

Challenges and Issues

There was a high incidence of inappropriate referrals, often due to a lack of initial treatment attempts by general dentists.

Many referred cases involved children with arrested caries who did not require extractions, indicating a need for better initial assessments.

Analysis and Recommendations

- 1. Improve The Quality of Referrals.** There is a need for additional training for general dentists to ensure they can properly assess and manage paediatric cases before referring them to the CDS. This should emphasize the importance of initial treatments. The appropriate and pain-free administration of local anaesthetics could reduce unnecessary referrals. Developing and distributing clear, detailed referral guidelines could help dentists make more informed decisions about when to refer patients to the CDS. In some ICS's the electronic referral system does help the practitioner make better referrals, if used correctly.





Stainless steel crowns fitted on a superhero!



2. Enhance Preventative Care. Promoting the importance of preventative dental care among General Dentists would reduce the number of inappropriate referrals. Encouraging the use of fluoride treatments, diet counselling and oral hygiene education for high-risk paediatric patients could reduce their levels of disease. Implementing standardized protocols for managing common paediatric issues should ensure that all GPs follow best-practice advice.

3. Parental Education. Launching educational campaigns aimed at parents to inform them about the importance of regular dental check-ups, preventative care and understanding when a referral is necessary could increase engagement with the dentist. GPs should ensure that parents understand the reason for referrals and the treatments provided. This can be achieved through better communication from the referring dentist and follow up discussion at the support practice.

4. Data Collection and Analysis. Improving performance monitoring by collecting data on treatment outcomes, referral patterns and patient satisfaction could improve dental services. We should establish feedback mechanisms for both patients and dentists to continuously refine the referral process and treatment protocols.

Personal Reflections

Positive interactions with children and efforts to make dental visits enjoyable are commendable. Building rapport and making the experience fun for young patients not only helps in delivering care effectively, but also fosters a positive attitude towards dental health from a young age.

Conclusion. The CDS support scheme has made substantial progress in reducing waiting times and providing essential dental care to children. However, addressing the issues of inappropriate referrals and inadequate preventative care is crucial for the scheme's continued success. By implementing targeted training, standardized protocols and educational initiatives, the quality and efficiency of paediatric dental care can be enhanced, benefitting both patients and the healthcare system.



Online resources for GDPs

Emily Hooper, Locum Orthodontic Consultant
Grantham District and Lincoln County Hospitals, ULHT

This overview aims to provide the most relevant and up to date online resources for dental primary care clinicians involved in the care of orthodontic, paediatric and cleft patients.

BRITISH ORTHODONTIC SOCIETY (BOS)

PATIENTS - BRITISH ORTHODONTIC SOCIETY (BOS)

This information is freely accessible and no login is required. Patient information and guidelines can be found here.

PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLETS - BRITISH ORTHODONTIC SOCIETY (BOS)

Clinicians and patients can access all the BOS information leaflets in PDF format.

PATIENT INFORMATION VIDEOS - BRITISH ORTHODONTIC SOCIETY (BOS)

The BOS has created animations about 'your twin block', 'looking after your teeth and brace', 'risks of orthodontic treatment' and 'your orthodontic retainers'. These have been specifically designed to engage and inform patients and parents in short succinct 3-minute video clips.

YOUR JAW SURGERY - BRITISH ORTHODONTIC SOCIETY (BOS)

Clinicians and patients wishing to find out more about orthognathic surgery can find a wealth of information here. Orthognathic patients describe their surgical journey from start to finish which may dispel any misinformation found online.

ADVICE SHEETS AND GUIDELINES - BRITISH ORTHODONTIC SOCIETY (BOS)

This information has been specifically created for clinicians, primarily Orthodontists. However, some of the advice sheets may be of interest to non-specialist clinicians, for example medical emergencies and complex medical histories.

INFORMATION FOR DENTISTS - BRITISH ORTHODONTIC SOCIETY (BOS)

Useful information including reminders about Orthodontic referrals (IOTN and timing) and limited time orthodontics (LTO).

KEEP BRITAIN SMILING - BRITISH ORTHODONTIC SOCIETY (BOS)

'The campaign is social media and community-driven and looks to target children, teenagers and young adults to encourage and promote the benefits of looking after their teeth'. This successful initiative was first started in Stoke by a Consultant Orthodontist and to date the campaign has been rolled out to 16 cities/areas, including Lincoln. Please register your interest if this is something that you would like to be involved with.

BRITISH SOCIETY OF PAEDIATRIC DENTISTRY (BSPD)

Similar to the BOS, the BSPD has some freely accessible information online which can be downloaded and utilised for patient education purposes.

**BRITISH SOCIETY OF
PAEDIATRIC DENTISTRY
(BSPD) > PATIENTS >
PATIENTINFO**

'Preventing tooth decay' and 'BSPD's - A practical guide to children's teeth' are available to download and have been translated into a number of languages.

**BRITISH SOCIETY OF
PAEDIATRIC DENTISTRY
(BSPD) > KIDSVIDS**

A number of online resources to help with patient oral hygiene education.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, ENGLAND (RCS)

Clinical guidelines — Royal College of Surgeons (rcseng.ac.uk) These guidelines have been published by the RCS and can be freely accessed online and found under the tab, 'Faculty of Dental Surgery'. They provide an evidence-based approach to diagnosis and management of the following:

2023 – Guideline for the extraction of first permanent molars in children

2022 – Management of the palatally ectopic canine

2022 – Management of unerupted maxillary incisors

CLEFT LIP AND PALATE ASSOCIATION (CLAPA)

An excellent resource for patients with cleft lip and palate. It is likely that the family will already be aware of the charity and can be directed to specific areas of the website. CLAPA can also be found on social media for up-to-date events and help connect patients, parents and families.

Cleft Lip & Palate Association (clapa.com) Information can be found here for patients aged between 5 and 12 years old on what to expect from their cleft journey in these early school years, focussing particularly on their dental health and possible future orthodontic treatment.

Cleft Lip & Palate Association (clapa.com) Patients aged 13 years and older can be directed here to find out more information about orthodontic treatment. Information can also be found here for orthognathic surgery which is often more complex than non-cleft surgery.

BRITISH DENTAL JOURNAL (BDJ)

Cleft Collection (nature.com). A themed BDJ issue published in June 2023 (access required) has all cleft related topics covered from birth to adulthood. It has been widely documented that cleft patients are at higher risk of caries therefore the importance of oral hygiene instruction, dietary advice and supplemental fluoride provision should be discussed and supported via primary care clinicians. Delivering better oral health toolkit can also be referenced

Delivering better oral health toolkit can also be referenced. Delivering better oral health: an evidence-based toolkit for prevention - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Postgraduate Virtual Learning Environment (PGVLE) Registration Form



To access the PGVLE [Please click here](#)

There are also now online training courses available on the PGVLE relating to:

- [Peer Review Networks](#). This online course developed for dental teams across the Midlands is 1 hour CPD accredited. [Log in here](#) to access it
- [Introduction to Dental Networks](#). This online course will help you to understand the configuration of Dentistry across the Midlands. [Log in here](#) to access it
- [Dental Avatar – Communication Training](#). This simulated patient exercise is designed to test and improve communication skills. [Log in here](#) to access it

If you haven't registered already - use the QR code on the left to register. This is for all members of the dental team.

NEW INSTANT ACCESS TRAINING AVAILABLE

Training packages available include:

- [Communication training](#) - have a discussion with the virtual patient to try out your communication skills - 30 minutes verifiable CPD
- [Utilising Skill Mix](#) - watch this recorded webinar - 1 hour verifiable CPD

Courses available to book

As always, the PGVLE is the best place to see the learning opportunities within the Midlands, visit the [Course Overview page](#) to see all courses that are now available for booking as well as exploring profession specific areas.

Some courses with places available include

- [Portfolio Careers in NHS Dentistry - Dentists](#)
- [Portfolio Careers in NHS Dentistry - DCPs](#)
- [Management of Behavioural Difficulties in Children](#)
- [Putting the Mouth back in the Body - Implications of Diabetes](#)



Annual renewal for dental care professionals now open. Renew your registration by 31st July

[CLICK HERE](#)

The Skill Mix/Mentoring webinar is now available for viewing on the PGVLE

Just to let you know that you can gain CPD by watching it and answering the summary questions.

[Course: Skill Mix in General Dentistry \(pgvle.co.uk\)](#)

TREATING DISADVANTAGED GROUPS LEARNING PACKAGE NOW AVAILABLE



The Dental Workforce Development Team are pleased to announce a brand-new training package on the Postgraduate Virtual Learning Environment (PGVLE) available for the whole dental team. The training has been developed in conjunction with the team at Crisis, who have worked with those who have experienced homelessness and have kindly shared their lived experiences.

Who is it for?

The training is relevant for the whole team, for example discussing how reception staff can make a huge difference to care. It is aimed at teams across the profession, not just those working in Community Dental Services. In General Dental Practice it is likely we are seeing many of the “hidden homeless” who are living in temporary accommodation or staying with friends and the training discusses the effect this has on families in particular trying to maintain good oral health.

What is it?

The learning comprises of 4 short videos, links to further resources, 10 Top Tips and a proforma for a practice meeting to discuss how your team might be able to improve the support they provide to patients from disadvantaged groups. The training is free, does not have to be completed in one go and will give 1.5 hours of verifiable CPD.

How do I access it?

You will need to be registered on the PGVLE to be able to access it. If you have not done this already, [please fill out this form](#). Then you will be able to undertake this training and have access to other learning like 1-hour verifiable CPD on Utilising Skill Mix, as well as seeing what courses are currently available for all registrant groups across the region.

[Follow this link](#) to be taken straight to the training.

If you have any problems accessing this new resource, please email the Dental Workforce Development Team england.dwd.midlands@nhs.net



DIVERSIFYING YOUR DENTAL CAREER

Do you feel like you would like to explore other options within dentistry to diversify your working week?

Would you like to hear from others with “portfolio careers” and hear about the paths they have taken?

The key to enjoying your career is understanding your passions and values and what drives you. This can be tricky though, having career coaching can be helpful to ask you the right questions.

If this seems like something that interests you NHS England WT&E are running free evening webinars in October – you will need to attend 2 session to gain your CPD

Session 1a – Dentists

Hear from 6 Dentists who have diversified their working week, whilst maintaining NHS primary care clinical practice. Including those working within education, research, leadership, commissioning and providing Tier 2 services.

Tuesday 2nd October 19.00-20.30

Visit [accent](#) to book



Session 1b – DCPs

This session you will hear from Dental Therapists and Dental Nurses who have taken different career paths. Including in education, leadership, working within commissioning, research and working for 111.

Tuesday 8th October 19.00-20.30

Visit [accent](#) to book

Session 2 – Whole Team

This session will be delivered by an experienced coach who will talk you through methods to help you uncover your passions and work towards finding direction in your career.

Tuesday 15th October 19.00-20.30

You will automatically be added to this session when you book session 1a or 1b.

RDN MOUTH CARE CONFERENCE

Open to all dental nurses!



**Wednesday, September 25th
8:30am - 4:30pm**

**Queen Elizabeth Hospital,
Birmingham, B16 2WG**

**Presenters include dental nurses
from:**

- Acute Care
- Special Care
- Community Care
- Elderly Care

**Opportunity to discuss - equipment / research / staff training /
case studies / EOL mouth care / implementation & progress /
funding / networking / employment opportunities**

50 spaces available!

**To book your place, email
Helen.Woodall@uhb.nhs.uk**

TMD Guidance

Dave Pearson, Chair of our BSOL Oral Surgery MCN writes: Please find below a link to the latest clinical guidance from the Faculty of Dental Surgery.

The Management of painful Temporomandibular disorder in adults guidance contains very useful patient support and clinical summary documents.

The guidance includes a summary of Red flags which may trigger urgent referral, screening tools and some potential management options for Myogenous and Arthrogenous diagnoses.

We are presently looking at the patient care pathways, are planning some CPD events and will be looking for some practices to volunteer for pilots later in the year. Further information to follow.

www.rcseng.ac.uk/dental-faculties/fds/publications-guidelines/clinical-guidelines/

WORKFORCE TRANSFORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

MENTAL HEALTH AND RESILIENCE

11TH OCTOBER 2024

This course aims to equip delegates with knowledge on mental health and resilience to ensure they have the tools in place for themselves to manage their mental wellbeing effectively.

- Characterise mental health, recognising the fluidity of it for ourselves and the team
- Implement tools and strategies to enhance mental wellbeing for ourselves and the team
- Identify what is resilience, identifying new techniques to foster resilience in ourselves and the team

Venue: Charles Hastings Education Centre, Worcester WR5 1DD

Presenter: Jessica Shields Coaching Limited

Target Audience: Dentist, Technician, Dental Nurse, Therapist, Hygienist, Receptionist/Administrator, Practice Manager, Orthodontic Therapist, Clinical Dental Technician

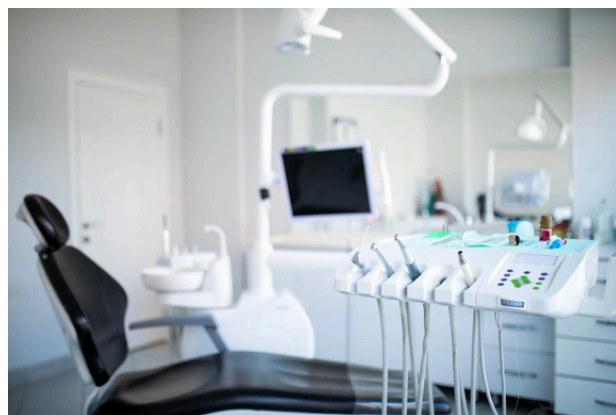
To book a place on the course click on the link below

[Mental Health & Resilience](#)

The concept of research

NIHR | Clinical Research Network West Midlands

Embedding research across all areas of health and care is essential to informing the evolution of treatment of disease and other health conditions. Research into oral and dental health leads to improvement in practices used in routine primary care check-ups all the way through to complex surgeries in a hospital setting. All staff groups involved in delivering dental care can contribute to research activities, which brings both new treatment opportunities for patients and upskilling opportunities for staff.



The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research. The NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN), soon to become the NIHR Research Delivery Network (RDN), is the part of the NIHR focused on supporting patients, the public and health and care organisations across England to participate in high-quality research. More information is available [here](#).

The NIHR CRN consists of regional hubs that focus on their immediate locality. The NIHR CRN West Midlands supports the delivery of research in all health and care settings across the region, including in dental services. Whilst oral and dental research in secondary care is supported by dedicated Research & Innovation departments of NHS Trusts, there is less support for research delivery in primary care settings. In acknowledgement of this, the CRN West Midlands has created a scheme dedicated to support primary care dental practices to get involved in research.

Both secondary and primary care dental services most typically get involved in research by delivering research studies at their site. The level of activity required varies across studies, ranging from simply displaying a poster that includes a link to a survey that patients can independently complete, to a carefully controlled clinical trial assessing a new method for a clinical procedure. Each site participating in research is trained and supported by the team leading the study, and can also seek guidance and support from the CRN West Midlands. For example, a secondary care site recently delivered a research study looking at orthodontic patient experience of intraoral scanners. Additionally, several primary care dental practices in the Midlands have recently delivered a study looking at a cognitive behavioural therapy intervention to reduce dental anxiety in children.

If you would like to find out more about how you can get involved in research as a dentist, dental care professional or supporting staff member please refer to the [website](#), or contact - anesha.chauhan@nihr.ac.uk

Some examples and opportunities for research in the West Midlands are presented on the following page.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES



Dental Research Network

Dental Research Network Opportunities For the Whole Dental Team with the NIHR Clinical Research Network West Midlands

Have you thought about becoming involved in research, developing your career and improving patient care and services? We are here to offer that opportunity.

CHOICE study:

The aim of this study is to prevent dental caries in children by inviting parents whose children have tooth decay to meet with a dental nurse trained in supporting them to change their children's tooth brushing and dietary habits. For more information click [here](#).

The benefits of taking part in research:

- Research Career Development
- Offers patients the opportunity to be involved in research (as specified in the NHS Constitution)
- Quality Mark for CQC Inspection
- Staff Learning and Development with CPD opportunities
- NIHR accredited certificate
- Updates on research findings to contribute to policy and practice

Expressions of Interest:

We are seeking expressions of interest from forward-thinking dental practices who would like to join our Dental Research Network in the West Midlands.

Please liaise with your dental practice owner/manager, seeking approval and register details [here](#).

For the opportunity to take part in the CHOICE study please complete [here](#).

Anesha Chauhan

Clinical Research Practitioner

Email: anesha.chauhan@nihr.ac.uk or by Mobile 07823362148