

NHS Complex Care Pathways

Structured, evidence-based care courses for patients with high levels of unmanaged dental disease.

Separate to banded courses of treatment. Optional for practices.

Aged 16+ only

3 pathways

UDA-credited

THE THREE PATHWAYS

PATHWAY 1

£293.40

Caries Only

Holistic caries management & prevention

6 months

6 declarations

Patient charge: £76.60

ELIGIBILITY

>=5 carious teeth into dentine

Aged 16+

No perio requirement

SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

- 1 Oral exam, BPE, radiographs & periodontal indices
- 2 Record diagnosis & extent of active carious lesions
- 3 Identify & record modifiable risk factors; MECC interventions
- 4 Treatment plan shared with patient
- 5 Prevention: OHE, diet advice, fluoride varnish (5% NaF)
- 6 Restore/extract all relevant carious teeth (min. 5) +/- endo
- 7 Re-evaluation & risk-based recall interval on completion

PATHWAY 2

£732.47

Caries + Perio

Caries care with unstable periodontal disease

12 months

12 declarations

Patient charge: £76.60

ELIGIBILITY

>=5 carious teeth into dentine

Generalised unstable perio (>30% teeth)

Aged 16+ | Depth >=5mm or >=4mm + BOP

SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

- 1 Oral exam, BPE, periodontal indices, radiographs
- 2 Record carious lesion diagnosis & periodontitis statement
- 3 Identify & record modifiable risk factors; MECC interventions
- 4 Treatment plan shared with patient
- 5 Prevention: OHE, diet advice, fluoride varnish & high fluoride toothpaste
- 6 Restore/extract all relevant carious teeth (min. 5) +/- endo
- 7 Min. 3 cycles of periodontal treatment (BSP S3 guidelines)
- 8 Risk-based recall interval assessment on completion

PATHWAY 3

£256.21

Complex Perio

Advanced / Stage III-IV periodontal disease

6 months

6 declarations

Patient charge: £76.60

ELIGIBILITY

Stage III/IV or unstable Grade C perio

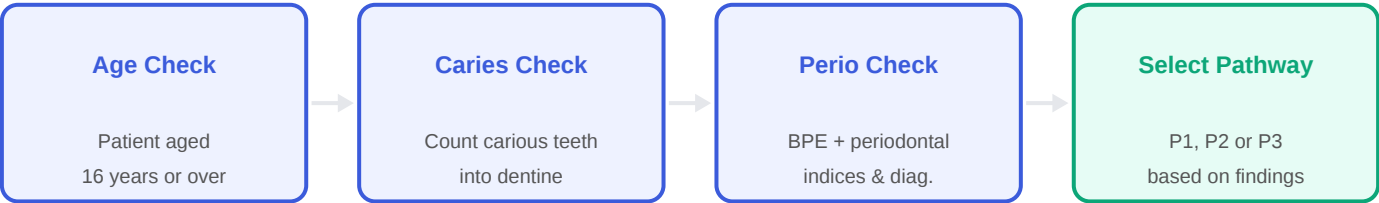
Aged 16+ | No caries minimum

If <5 carious: treat Band 2 COT first, then enter pathway

SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

- 1 Oral exam, BPE, periodontal indices, radiographs
- 2 Record periodontitis diagnosis statement & carious lesions
- 3 Identify & record modifiable risk factors; MECC interventions
- 4 Treatment plan shared with patient
- 5 Prevention: OHE (toothbrushing & interdental cleaning)
- 6 Min. 2 cycles of periodontal treatment (BSP S3 guidelines)
- 7 Risk-based recall interval assessment on completion

ELIGIBILITY DECISION FLOW



AT-A-GLANCE COMPARISON

Feature	P1 £293.40	P2 £732.47	P3 £256.21
Duration	6 months	12 months	6 months
Declarations	6	12	6
>=5 carious teeth	YES	YES	NO
Periodontal disease req.	No	Unstable Stage II B+	Stage III/IV or Gd C
Min. perio cycles	None	3 cycles	2 cycles
Patient charge	£76.60 Band 2	£76.60 Band 2	£76.60 Band 2
Mid-point data	No	Yes — Month 6	No

PREVENTION — REQUIRED FOR ALL PATHWAYS (DBOH V4)

Oral Hygiene Education

Structured education on toothbrushing technique and interdental cleaning

Reference
DBOH Ch. 8

Dietary Advice

Advice on reducing sugar frequency.
Record and address as a modifiable risk

Reference
DBOH Ch. 10

Fluoride Interventions

Fluoride varnish (5% NaF - 22,600 ppm F) and prescribe high fluoride toothpaste as

Reference
DBOH Ch. 9

ANNEX A - MODIFYING FACTORS (MAY UPGRADE PERIO GRADING BY +1 INCREMENT)

NOT cumulative — only ONE grade increment can be added regardless of how many factors are present.
Factors raise case complexity and can move a patient into a higher pathway.

Co-ordinated medical & dental care (e.g. renal/cardiac/chemotherapy)

Multidisciplinary care needed (e.g. oral surgery + ortho)

Medical history significantly affecting management (e.g. diabetes)

Special needs affecting acceptance or provision of care

Mandibular dysfunction present

Atypical or undiagnosed facial pain

Tendency to retch during procedures

Limited operating access for clinician

Concurrent mucogingival disease (e.g. erosive lichen planus)

MAX +1 grade increment regardless of number of factors

CLINICAL GUIDANCE LINKS

Caries

ICCMS™

ICCMS™ Practitioner Guide (PDF)

Periodontics

BSP S3

BSP UK Clinical Practice Guidelines

Prevention

DBOH v4

DBOH v4 — full toolkit (GOV.UK)

2