

PRESS RELEASE



For immediate release: Thursday 7th October, 2010

THINK TWICE IF UNHAPPY OVER REQUEST FOR EXTRACTIONS, URGES MDDUS.

Dentists are being urged to double check before extracting teeth if they have doubts over orthodontists' treatment requests.

The UK-wide dental defence organisation MDDUS has noticed a recent increase in calls to its advisers seeking advice on requests for orthodontic extractions.

MDDUS suggests dental practitioners seek a second opinion before carrying out any extractions if they do not agree the proposed treatment is appropriate.

Rachael Bell, dental adviser, says: "A referral for extractions is not an order. Both the referring practitioner and the dentist of whom the request is being made, have responsibilities.

"There is a responsibility on the referrer to have adequately examined the patient and made an appropriate and accurate referral.

"However there is also a responsibility on the receiving dentist to check the details and if they are not sure of the accuracy of the prescription or the appropriateness of the proposed treatment, then they are obliged to NOT proceed with treatment."

MDDUS reminds dentists that in such cases, the General Dental Council has clear guidelines: *"If you do not feel that what you have been asked to do is appropriate discuss this with the colleague who has made the request and come to an agreement before continuing.*

"As a team member, you have a responsibility to raise any concern you have that patients might be at risk because of any action you have been asked to carry out that you believe conflicts with your main duty to put patients' interests first and act to protect them."

Bell adds: "We advise our members in this situation to try speaking to the referring dentist directly. However if they are unable to come to agreement a second opinion should be sought before any treatment is carried out.

"Before the forceps go on the tooth, check to make sure you are happy, and if not stop. If in doubt check or refer for further investigation or opinion."

Ends

For further information contact Colin Calder on 0141 616 2677 or 07850 510881.

Note to editors

MDDUS (Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland) is a medical and dental defence organisation providing access to professional indemnity and expert medico- and dento-legal advice for doctors, dentists and other healthcare professionals throughout the UK. For further information on MDDUS go to www.mddus.com.