

**Patient Initiated Follow-Up (PIFU)**

 **Clinical Protocol for Orthodontics and Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery**

**1) Introduction:**

* This protocol is a general description of patients under the Orthodontic or Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery teams who are agreed by the clinicians to be suitable for PIFU.
* Any decision to place a patient on a patient initiated follow-up (PIFU) pathway is ultimately at the discretion of the clinician.
* PIFU is not to be used where patients would otherwise previously have been discharged

**2) Patient cohort/selection criteria:** Patients identified as appropriate for PIFU by an Orthodontic or Oral & Maxillofacial clinician.

**3) Exclusion criteria:**

**4) Timeframe for patient to stay on PIFU pathway:** Maximum 18 months

**5) Key symptoms that should trigger a follow-up appointment request:** To be discussed with the patient during the consultation.

**6a) Ideal waiting time between initiating an appointment and seeing a clinician:** Next available appointment. Usually 6-8 weeks. Any concerns regarding wait time to be discussed with clinician.

**6b) Maximum waiting time:** 8 weeks

**7) Clinicians who can allocate to PIFU:** Consultants and Staff Grades

**8) Note to be added to the bottom of the clinic letter to the GP:**

This patient has been allocated a patient initiated follow up (PIFU) and can request a further follow up appointment by contacting Central Booking on **01722 345543** valid for the next***specify XX*** **months**.

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