

# NATIONAL HOSPITAL DENTISTRY / ORAL MAXILLO-FACIAL SURGERY

## National Access Criteria for First Assessment [ACA]

**Category Definitions :** These are recommended guidelines for HHS specialists prioritizing referrals from primary care.

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|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Immediate   | - <i>within 24 hours</i> |
| 2. Urgent      | - <i>within 2 weeks</i>  |
| 3. Semi-urgent | - <i>within 8 weeks</i>  |
| 4. Routine     | - <i>within 24 weeks</i> |

Immediate and Urgent cases must be discussed with the Specialist or Registrar in order to get appropriate prioritisation and then a referral letter sent with the patient, faxed or e-mailed. The times to assessment may vary depending on size and staffing of the hospital department.

### NATIONAL REFERRAL GUIDELINES : NATIONAL HOSPITAL DENTISTRY / ORAL MAXILLO-FACIAL SURGERY

Category	Criteria	Examples (not an exhaustive list)
1. Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant or uncontrolled bleeding</li> <li>• Severe poorly controlled pain. Eg. Acute trigeminal neuralgia</li> <li>• Life threatening conditions. Eg Ludwigs Angina</li> <li>• Acute and significant functional impairment. Eg acute bilateral TMJ dislocation.</li> <li>• Severe/acute oral medical conditions. Eg Primary herpetic stomatitis.</li> </ul>	<p>The following factors may modify a category:</p> <p><b>Age</b> Criteria may have more importance in an infant or a frail elderly patient.</p> <p><b>Associated Medical Condition.</b> Medically compromised patients require enhanced priority.</p> <p><b>Social / Family Circumstances</b> may require conditions to be managed more acutely.</p> <p><b>Dental Treatment Prior to Other Acute Medical Intervention.</b></p>
2. Urgent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suspected malignancy.</li> <li>• Swelling /pain.</li> <li>• Oral/facial trauma not requiring immediate treatment.</li> </ul>	
3. Semi - Urgent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain, adequately controlled.</li> <li>• Facial/jaw cyst.</li> <li>• Chronic infections.</li> <li>• Salivary gland pathology.</li> <li>• Routine care for medically compromised patients.</li> </ul>	
4. Routine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oral medical conditions.</li> <li>• Congenital conditions / malformations.</li> <li>• Cranio-facial rehabilitation.</li> <li>• Routine dental care</li> <li>• Non-malignant growths</li> </ul>	