



Detention services order 04/2013

Routine dental appointments

Introduction

1. This instruction concerns routine dental check-ups for detainees in immigration removal centres.
2. Previous instructions on detainee access to emergency dental treatment are not affected by this DSO.

Policy

2. The UK Border Agency will offer:
 - a) An oral health assessment a maximum of two years after the date which the detainee's oral health was last assessed. In this instance, the detainee would need to provide evidence of the date of their last assessment.or:
 - b) For detainees who cannot prove when their last assessment was: an oral health assessment a maximum of twelve months after the date when the detainee entered detention¹.
3. For detainees who fall under paragraph 2b), Home Office centre staff are responsible for informing immigration removal centres of individuals who are entitled to a dental check-up as they pass the threshold of twelve months in detention.
4. Information on the length of detention for individual detainees (not just the time spent in the current centre) is available on CID. The information can be found by:
 - a) Finding the detainee's record on CID using the person search function
 - b) Opening the 'Restrictions' screen
 - c) The number of days in detention, the start date of current period of detention, and the period of IS detention is found on this screen
5. If the routine check-up identifies a detainee has a need for further treatment, in line with the rules for NHS treatment, this should be implemented within the suggested

¹ The twelve months will start when the individual enters sole immigration detention. It includes any period which may be spent in prison as an immigration detainee prior to transfer to the immigration estate.

timeframes. Although, of course, removal from the UK or release into the community could mean that treatment was not completed. If it was deemed important by the centre healthcare team that the detainee should follow this up on return to his/her country of origin, the detainee should be provided with a letter to pass to those responsible for providing dental care.

7 June 2013

Archived