

It is pertinent to examine the prevalence of private care provided by non-orthodontic specialists within primary care settings. Given that these clinicians receive three to five years of state-funded postgraduate training, quantifying the volume of specialist-level activity occurring within the private sector, outside of secondary care or NHS primary care, is essential.

Unlike orthodontic treatment, where NHS primary care provision is largely specialist-led, specialist-led primary care periodontal/restorative/endodontic/prosthodontic/surgical/etc. treatment is predominantly delivered within the private sector, outside of the NHS.

Identifying the extent to which non-orthodontic specialists provide private-only primary-care provision over NHS provision in the community could offer critical insights into optimising resource allocation and mitigating the secondary care backlog.