Glossary

Term	Description
ACV	Annual Contract Value.
ADG	Association of Dental Groups.
Associates	Clinicians who pay to use the facilities, premises and support staff of a practice or group.
BDA	British Dental Association.
NHSBSA	NHS Business Services Authority.
Bupa	The British United Provident Association Limited and those of its direct and indirect subsidiaries whose activities are related to the provision of dental services.
CDO	Chief Dental Officer.
Clinicians	In our report and this glossary, refers to dentists, dental hygienists and dental therapists.
Common treatments	In the context of our price trends analysis, it includes ten dental treatments. These are the large dental groups' top eight revenue generating private dental treatments (other than white fillings and teeth whitening), plus teeth whitening and white fillings.
Corporate dental group	Dental group not controlled by private equity firms or funds, including founder-owned, family-owned, mutually owned and other privately or institutionally owned groups.
Cosmetic treatment	Private dental services that are generally undertaken to improve the aesthetics of teeth or smile, and where there is generally no underlying clinical disease or functional impairment requiring treatment. Cosmetic services could include treatments for which similar treatments are generally not available on the NHS/Health Service (eg tooth whitening). Excludes treatments that deliver both aesthetic and clinical benefits and services that are not dental treatments (eg facial fillers).
CPD	Continuing Professional Development.
CQC	Care Quality Commission. [England]

Term	Description
DAP	Dental Access Portal.
DCP	Dental care professional. A person qualified to practise specified aspects of dental care. The term covers a number of titles that are eligible for **GDC** registration. Each title has its own qualifications and scope of practice. Titles included under the umbrella term DCP are: • Dental nurse. • Dental technician. • Dental therapist. • Dental hygienist. • Orthodontic therapist. • Clinical dental technician.
DCS	Dental Complaints Service.
Dental firms / firms	A combination of dental groups and independently owned dentistry businesses.
Dental group	Collective term for four largest dental groups, other large dental groups and small to mid-size dental groups.
Dental services	Refers to a range of dental treatments provided by dental professionals, including preventative, clinically necessary and cosmetic dental treatments.
Dentist	A person who is qualified to treat diseases and other conditions that affect the teeth and gums, especially the repair and extraction of teeth and the insertion of artificial ones, that is registered with the **GDC** to work in the UK.
Dental professionals	A combination of dentists and DCPs.

Term	Description
Deprivation	As defined by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, it refers to people's unmet needs, a lack of access to opportunities and resources which we might expect in our society. Local Deprivation Explorer - Glossary. The UK nations use different definitions. • See the following links to understand those differences. • English indices of deprivation 2025 - GOV.UK (England), • Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation: 2025 | GOV.WALES (Wales), • Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation: data and resources - gov.scot (Scotland) and; • Deprivation and poverty | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (Northern Ireland).
DHSC	Department of Health and Social Care.
DPP	Dental payment plans. These include dental capitation/maintenance plans, but does not include finance, dental insurance or other healthcare plans.
EBITDA	Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation.
FCA	Financial Conduct Authority.
Four largest dental groups	Bupa, mydentist, Portman Dentex, and Rodericks.
FTP	Fitness to Practise.
From price	A from price indicates the minimum amount a consumer might expect to pay, but it does not provide any indication of the maximum price that could ultimately be charged.
GDC	General Dental Council.
GDHI	Gross disposable household income.

Term	Description
GDS contract	General Dental Services contract.
HIW	Health Inspectorate Wales. [Wales]
HSC	Health and Social Care. [Northern Ireland]
ICB	Integrated Care Boards. [England]
Independent	An independently owned dentistry business with 1-2 practices (which is not part of a dental group).
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators.
LAD	Local authority districts (LAD) is a term used in England to refer to regional areas where local authorities have some responsibility for running local services. Each of the UK nations has a different term for this. In Wales they are known as principal areas; in Scotland they are known as council areas; and in Northern Ireland they are known as local government districts. We refer to all collectively in our report using the term local authority districts.
LDS	Licence in Dental Surgery.
LGA	Local Government Association. [England]
LHB	Local Health Boards. [Wales]
Large dental group	A dental group that has 30+ dental practices in its portfolio.
Mixed practice	A dental practice that provides both NHS and private dental services.
mydentist	Mydentist Group Limited and those of its direct and indirect subsidiaries whose activities are related to the provision of dental services.
NAO	National Audit Office.
NASDAL	National Association of Specialist Dental Accountants & Lawyers.
NHS Boards	NHS Boards. [Scotland]
NHS	National Health Service refers to publicly funded health systems across the UK. As health is a devolved matter, services are delivered separately within each nation. In England, Scotland and Wales, these services are provided through NHS systems, while in Northern Ireland, they are delivered through the Health and Social Care (HSC) service.
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence.
Non-clinical staff	Includes receptionists, practice managers.

Term	Description
ORE	Overseas Registration Examination.
PDS contract	Personal Dental Services contract.
Private equity-backed dental group	A dental group majority owned or controlled by private equity firms or funds.
Portman Dentex	Portman Healthcare Limited and those of its direct and indirect subsidiaries whose activities are related to the provision of dental services.
Practice	Premises from which dental services are supplied in a specific geographic location. Practices may be operated under various business models, eg independently or by corporate bodies.
Practice manager	The term practice manager refers to a normally non-clinical, in practice management role responsible for the day to day running and business side of the practice. Terminology varies across dental practices.
Principal	A dental practitioner who owns the dental business, provides ongoing management and oversight of the business, and who may also undertake clinical work in the practice.
Private only practice	A dental practice that provides only private dental services.
PSDS	Public Service Delivery Scotland: Merger of NHS Education Scotland (NES) and NHS National Services Scotland (NSS).
RQIA	Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority. [Northern Ireland]
Rodericks	Riviera Topco Limited and those of its direct and indirect subsidiaries whose activities are related to the provision of dental services.
Rural	An area can be considered rural if it has a lower population density. The UK nations use different definitions. See the following links to understand those differences: • 2021 Rural Urban Classification - Office for National Statistics (England & Wales), • Supporting documents - Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification 2022 - gov.scot (Scotland) and; • Settlement 2015 Documentation | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (Northern Ireland).
Small to mid-size dental group	A dental group that has 3-29 dental practices in its portfolio.

Term	Description
SPPG	Strategic Planning and Performance Group. [Northern Ireland]
UDA	Units of Dental Activity.
Urban	An area can be considered urban if it has a higher population density. The UK nations use different definitions. See the following links to understand those differences. • 2021 Rural Urban Classification - Office for National Statistics (England & Wales), • Supporting documents - Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification 2022 - gov.scot (Scotland) and; • Settlement 2015 Documentation | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (Northern Ireland).
WTP	Willingness to pay.
WHO	World Health Organization.