

22 July 2025

Waiting Time for Dental Treatment in Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

1. Total numbers of children currently waiting a) for assessment b) for treatment to have teeth extracted under General Anaesthetic broken down by HSC Trust area, and by range of time periods children have been waiting for.

352 patients, longest waiting patient – 178 weeks

2. Total numbers of patients presenting with dental issues in A&Es /Emergency Departments by HSC Trust area over each of the past 5 years.

Data only available for 06/06/2024 – 06/06/2025 – 5 patients referred from A&E to Dental services. Data not held for those presenting to A&E for dental issues

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Oral Surgery		
Number of patients <18yrs old awaiting a new patient assessment		Date in Weeks of longest waiter
Urgent	6	7 Weeks
Routine	116	43 Weeks
Number of patients <18yrs old awaiting a dental procedure as a Day case / Inpatient		Date in Weeks of longest waiter
Urgent	6	44 Weeks
Routine	38	101 Weeks

22 July 2025

Only 1 x referral for Oral Surgery (time period 06.06.24 to 03.06.25) came from a Referral Source of – Belfast Trust RVH Emergency. Subsequently marked as ‘Rejected’.

***ED breakdown is under each table, but there needs to be a caveat that our system will not pick up all ED work the patient will be logged under ED and our dental staff will be requested to attend at ED.

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Special Care Dentistry		
Number of patients <18yrs old awaiting a new patient assessment		Date in Weeks of longest waiter
Urgent	3	6 Days
Routine	39	169 Weeks
Number of patients <18yrs old awaiting a dental procedure as a Daycase / Inpatient		Date in Weeks of longest waiter
Urgent	1	102 Weeks
Routine	4	5 Weeks

No referrals to Special Care Dentistry (time period 06.06.24 to 03.06.25) came from a Referral Source of Accident and Emergency.

22 July 2025

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Paediatric Dentistry		
Number of patients awaiting a new patient assessment		Date in Weeks of longest waiter
Urgent	554	93 Weeks
Routine	349	110 Weeks
Number of patients awaiting a dental procedure as a Daycase / Inpatient		Date in Weeks of longest waiter
Urgent	107	178 Weeks
Routine	143	171 Weeks

Total of 4 x referrals for Paediatric Dentistry (time period 06.06.24 to 03.06.25) came from a Referral Source of – Belfast Trust RBHSC Emergency. Subsequently marked as ‘Rejected’.

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Community Dental Services		
Number of children awaiting assessment for GA		Date in Weeks of longest waiter
Urgent	896	92 Weeks
Routine	700	328 Weeks
Number of children awaiting extractions under GA		Date in Weeks of longest waiter
Urgent	53	12 Weeks
Routine	0	N/A

22 July 2025

3. Total number of complaints made to HSC Trust relating to dental services over each of the past 5 years.

Financial Year	Total
2020/2021	13
2021/2022	13
2022/2023	15
2023/2024	15
2024/2025	15
Total	69