

## **What is the 'IOTN'**

A rating system known as the Index of Orthodontic Treatment Needs is used to assess the need and eligibility for NHS treatment in patients under the age of 18 years of age on dental health grounds. The government's regulation, which came into effect in April 2006, was designed as an objective and reliable way to select those children who will benefit most from treatment and is a fair way to prioritise limited NHS resources.

## **Why can't I have treatment for free on the NHS?**

The IOTN allows us to offer NHS Orthodontic Treatment to patients presenting with a great need for treatment. Unfortunately, based on this scoring system, our assessment indicates that your malocclusion falls outside of the criteria for acceptance for NHS orthodontic treatment. The NHS says because your teeth aren't going to affect your health then there isn't a need for free treatment.

## **Why did my dentist refer me if I am not eligible?**

Generally, most dentists will refer a patient for a specialist orthodontic assessment if their teeth appear irregular or if you have stated that you are unhappy with the appearance of your teeth.

## **My child's teeth look like they need a brace!**

This is a personal preference. If your child has not met the eligibility criteria but is unhappy with the look of their teeth, this is deemed 'aesthetic' and we can certainly help.

## **Private Treatment Options**

We like to treat all our patients fairly by giving you the option to straighten your teeth despite not meeting the NHS criteria for free treatment. You will be given the option to pay privately for your treatment, at a subsidised rate, following your initial assessment by your orthodontist. This can also be discussed, in length, with one of our treatment coordinators. If this is something you would like some more information on, please do not hesitate to ask one of our friendly team who is happy to help.

## **Further Information on IOTN**

You can access some more information at the following link:  
[www.nhs.uk/conditions/orthodontics](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/orthodontics)