



# Binscombe Medical Centre

106 Binscombe  
Godalming  
Surrey  
GU7 3PR

**Partners:** Dr Andrew Cook; Dr Peter O'Donnell; Dr Martin Brunet; Dr Mike Walker; Dr Clare Grove; Dr Sarah Pidgeon; Dr Satoko Orihashi; Sister Pippa Large **Associates:** Dr Jess Jameson; Dr Ella Sim; Dr Kathryn Osborne; Dr Tarisai Mukoko

**Practice Manager:** Miss Emma Phillips

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## POLICY REGARDING DENTAL INFECTIONS

Dental infections pose a difficult problem for patients and doctors. Patients sometimes find it difficult to get to see their dentist, are afraid of seeing a dentist or do not have a dentist. Doctors, on the other hand, do not have training in dentistry and should not be trying to provide dental services, something they are not qualified for.

The doctors at Binscombe we have given this subject careful thought, and consulted with dental colleagues in coming up with this policy.

The doctors at Binscombe will:

- Advise you when you should see a dentist rather than a doctor.
- Diagnose and treat conditions of the mouth and face that are not related to teeth.
- Advise you as to where dental help can be found.
- Help in the management of dental phobia.
- In cases where there is a short delay in seeing a dentist, provide short term pain relief.

The doctors at Binscombe will not:

- Make decisions about what treatment is needed for dental conditions, or provide this treatment. **This includes the prescription of antibiotics for possible or proven dental infections.** This is because we are not qualified to do this, and also because if we do give antibiotics this can make it very difficult for a dentist to make an assessment a few days later.

Dentists can:

- Prescribe antibiotics for dental conditions where necessary.
- Prescribe pain killers for dental conditions.
- Provide other treatment (eg fillings etc) for dental conditions.

If you have a severe toothache you should see a dentist without delay. There is an emergency dental service available to all our patients. To access emergency dental care you should call:

**The Surrey Dental Helpline is now accessed by calling NHS 111**

### **Finding an NHS Dentist**

If you do not have an NHS dentist and would like to be registered with one then the Surrey Dental Helpline can also give advice on NHS dentists. Every person is entitled to an NHS dentist and there always has to be a dentist who is accepting NHS patients in our area, although you may not be able to choose which dentist you would like to be registered with.