**HINCHLEY WOOD PRACTICE**

**ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT**

We are very happy to be able to accept you for orthodontic treatment here at Hinchley Wood Practice. In order that your treatment may progress as swiftly and easily as possible, we would like you to be aware of the following points before treatment is started.

In order for treatment to be successful it is necessary to have the full co-operation of our patients, and we ask you to be especially aware of the following:

**Oral Hygiene**

Great care must be taken if damage to your teeth is to be avoided. It is imperative that your teeth cleaning is kept to a high standard and that a fluoride mouthwash is used on a daily basis if fixed appliances are fitted. Failure to do this may result in permanent damage to your teeth. Patients who have a particular problem with oral hygiene may be asked to attend for hygiene appointments at their general dental practice until the situation improves. Hygienist appointments are not provided by the NHS and may therefore be charged for. Treatment may be stopped if oral hygiene is persistently poor.

**Breakages**

Please follow very carefully the instructions given to you when your appliances are fitted, especially those relating to the types of food to be avoided. This will minimise the amount of breakages and problems that you may have with your appliances. If any breakages do occur, please inform us immediately so that arrangements can be made to see you as soon as possible. Delays in repairing broken appliances can add several months to your overall treatment time and may result in damage to your teeth.

**Appointments**

Unfortunately, some patients fail to keep their appointments. If appointments are not kept treatment is likely to be less successful and others on the waiting list for treatment are prevented from being seen. If a patient fails or cancels appointments without good reason, then treatment will be stopped and the appliance removed.

Please note that as more than 95% of our patients are children attending school, it is impossible to schedule all appointments after school or in the afternoons. You are likely to have to come out of school once every four to six weeks throughout treatment.

**Ancillary Products**

During treatment you may be advised to purchase certain products to help you to look after your appliances correctly and to keep your teeth and gums healthy. Please note that these products are not provided by the NHS.

**Routine Dental Care**

We are only looking after your orthodontic treatment. It is very important that you continue to see your general dentist for checkups every six months throughout the time your appliances are in place.

**Retainers**

All patients who have treatment using fixed appliances will need to wear removable retainers for a period of time after their fixed appliances are removed. Removable retainers need to be worn “full time” initially and wear is then usually reduced after about six months. We continue to supervise retention for twelve months following active treatment.

I hope you will understand why the above points are necessary, and will co-operate with us as far as possible.

 **Date of last review: November 2017**