INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS AND PARENTS OR CARERS

Did not qualify **for NHS braces?**

Private treatment for teenagers with a low IOTN score

PORTADOWN ORTHODONTICS

Why the NHS could **not pay for treatment**

NHS orthodontic treatment is only funded for teeth with a **higher need** for treatment. The orthodontist checks this using a scoring system called **IOTN** (Index of Orthodontic Treatment Need).

- IOTN has five grades, from **1 (little or no need)** to **5 (very great need)**. The grade is mainly about dental health, and the look of the teeth can also be taken into account.
- In general, only the higher grades qualify for NHS funding. We will explain your score and why it did not qualify.
- A lower score **does not mean treatment would not help**. Braces or aligners can still improve how the teeth line up and look.
- A mild problem can still affect how confident a teenager feels about their smile.
- **Private treatment is an option**, and there is no waiting list.

Our offer **for under-18s**

Usually £3,900

£2,900

Under-18s offer

- Usually **£3,900**. While the patient is **under 18**, our under-18s offer price is **£2,900**.
- Same price for **metal braces** or **Smartee aligners**.
- The orthodontist will tell you which options suit your teeth.
- Private treatment usually takes **2–24 months**, depending on complexity. Mild cases can often be quite straightforward to fix.

Spread the cost over 12 months. Pay a £900 deposit, then 12 monthly payments. A £150 plan fee is added to the balance and spread across your monthly payments. Go ahead with private treatment and your £155 assessment fee is deducted from the overall cost. With the payment plan, your £900 deposit drops to £745 and the monthly amounts are unchanged. Cross-border (HSE) patients are excluded.

Good **to know**

- The best time to start is usually **between 12 and 14 years old**, when most adult teeth have come through.
- Starting in the early teens makes it more likely that treatment is finished before important exams in school.
- After treatment, you will need to wear **retainers every night (8 to 10 hours), for life**.
- **If you repeatedly miss appointments, we may have to stop your treatment early**, as brace treatment needs to be monitored closely.
- At your appointments you will be seen by members of our orthodontic team, including orthodontic therapists, our dentist with enhanced skills in orthodontics, Dr Méabh Maguire, and our specialist orthodontist.
- **Ask your clinician during your appointment**, or call reception on **028 3870 2623**. Treatment depends on a satisfactory assessment; not everyone is suitable for orthodontic treatment.

Would you like a simulation showing the possible outcome?

- Email us at **heathwoodhouse@djmaguiredentists.co.uk** and we can send you what treatment could do for your smile. If William has emailed you before, you can reply to him directly if you can't get through on the main practice email or phone number.