

## EMERGENCY DENTAL SERVICES

24-hour emergency dental services are available at the SGH Department of Emergency Medicine, located at Block 1, Level 3.

### **Dental Services Available at the Department of Emergency Medicine (DEM)**

At DEM, the priority is to attend to patients with serious illness and injuries. Non-critical elective dental treatment should ideally be taken care of at your regular dentist during normal opening hours. Matching the severity of your condition with the right level of care will also help you manage costs.

Most dental conditions are not life-threatening and so, the dental clinic at the DEM is equipped to handle only conditions that require urgent care, such as:

- Severe pain
- Uncontrolled bleeding
- Facial swelling due to infection
- Traumatic injuries eg. loosened or dislodged teeth, broken teeth or jaws, cuts to the gums

These dental services for non-critical conditions are **NOT** available at the DEM Dental Clinic:

- Scaling
- Fillings /Dressings
- Difficult extractions
- Root canal treatment
- Removal of wisdom teeth
- Dentures
- Crowns/Bridges/Implants
- Orthodontic Treatment

### **What can I do if I have a bad toothache outside of regular clinic hours?**

If your toothache is less severe, taking over-the-counter painkillers could help with the discomfort while you wait for dental clinics to open. Never put any oral painkiller against the gums near the aching tooth because it may burn the gum tissue.

You can also contact one of the private dental clinics that provide 24-hour emergency services. These can be found in the yellow-pages listing.

### **What if I decide to come to the SGH DEM Dental Clinic?**

After registering, a nurse will attend to you for triage and assign a specific priority level according to the severity of your condition and advise you on where to wait for consultation.

An initial assessment will be done by a Medical Officer and the Dental Officer-on-call will be called in as needed for a further assessment and/or to perform an emergency procedure.

Toothaches make up the bulk of the dental cases seen at the SGH DEM. Every effort will be taken to relieve your pain and discomfort. Most often, emergency procedures could include

- Giving a local anaesthetic injection and/or or prescribing painkillers for temporary pain relief, **OR**
- Putting in a medicated temporary filling to soothe the tooth, **OR**
- Extracting the tooth if it is a simple and straightforward extraction. (Difficult extractions which may require surgery will need to be referred to the NDCS or a private practice dentist)

The dentist-on-call who attended to you will refer you to the National Dental Centre of Singapore or a private practice dentist for follow-up care the following day, during clinic opening hours.

### **Payment**

The current Emergency Department facility fee is S\$99 per visit. This covers basic investigations and services provided. Emergency dental procedures will involve extra cost and hence additional charges. You may pay by cash, NETS, personal cheque or credit card.