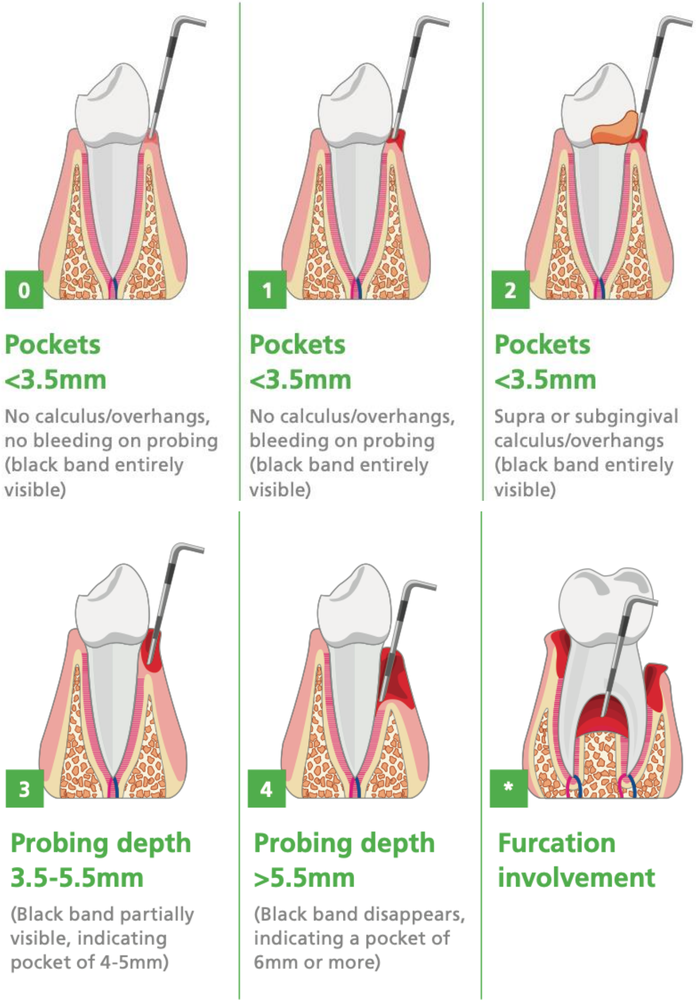
Audit Presentation

An assessment of Basic Periodontal Exam (BPE) recording in new orthodontic patients in the Orthodontic Department at the School of Dentistry, Belfast

Andrew Irvine
DCT 1
24/06/2026

NIMDTA
Northern Ireland
Medical & Dental Training Agency

Background

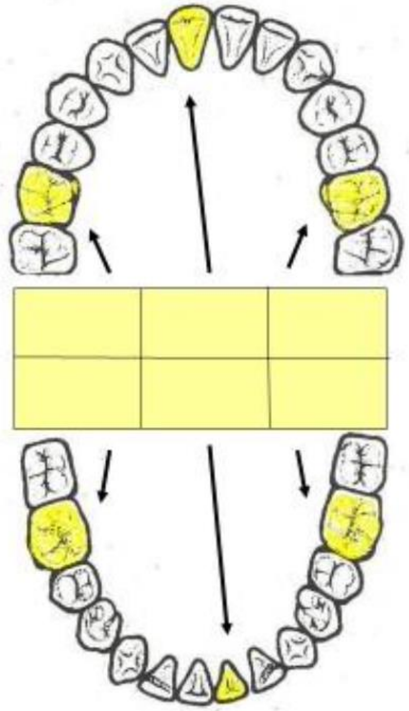


- Simplified BPE (sBPE)
- Based on FDI recommendation in 1986 for a quick, dependable method of periodontal screening in practice
- Assess Index teeth (based on WHO partial recording for adolescents)

  UR6, UR1, UL6

  LR6, LL1, LL6
- Assess 6-points per tooth using WHO probe:

  db, b, mb, dl, l, ml



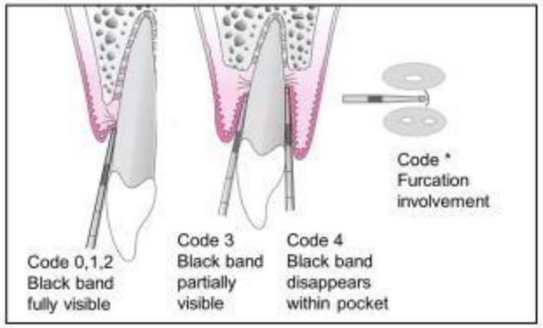
NIMDTA
Northern Ireland
Medical & Dental Training Agency

Background

sBPE Code	Summary Guidance on Interpretation of the Simplified BPE Codes
0	No periodontal treatment Screen again at routine recall or within 1 year, whichever sooner
1	Oral hygiene instruction (OHI) Screen again at routine recall or within 6 months, whichever sooner
2	OHI as for Code 1. Supragingival/subgingival professional mechanical plaque removal (PMPR). Remove/manage plaque retention factors Screen again at routine recall or within 6 months, whichever sooner
3	OHI as for Codes 1 and 2. Supragingival/subgingival PMPR, with particular emphasis on subgingival PMPR in shallow 4 mm – 5 mm pockets. Remove/manage plaque retention factors After 3 months, do a full periodontal assessment, including 6-point probing pocket depth (PPD) chart, in affected sextants
4 or *	Unusual in young patients. Do a full periodontal assessment, including 6-point PPD chart, throughout the entire dentition Consider referral to a Specialist, while do initial therapy, as Code 3

7-11 years	Mixed dentition. Use sBPE codes 0, 1, 2 on Index teeth
12-17 years	Permanent dentition. Use sBPE codes 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, * on Index teeth

Code	Simplified BPE (sBPE)
0	Healthy
1	Bleeding after gentle probing. Black band fully visible
2	Calculus or plaque retention factor. Black band fully visible
3	Shallow pocket 4 mm or 5 mm. Black band partly visible
4	Deep pocket 6 mm or more. Black band disappears
*	Furcation



‘You must make and keep contemporaneous, complete and accurate patient records’

General Dental Council Standard 4.1

NIMDTA
Northern Ireland
Medical & Dental Training Agency

Aims and Objectives

To measure compliance with published guidelines from the BSP and BSPD regarding the recording of BPE scores in new patients aged 7 and above at the Orthodontic Department at the School of Dentistry, Belfast, and where standards are not met to implement measures aimed at improving the completion and documentation of BPEs by all members of staff.

BSP
British Society of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry

British Society of Paediatric Dentistry

NIMDTA
Northern Ireland Medical & Dental Training Agency

Standard

‘All new patients should have the BPE recorded’

Basic Periodontal Exam (BPE) Guidelines - BSP, Published 2019

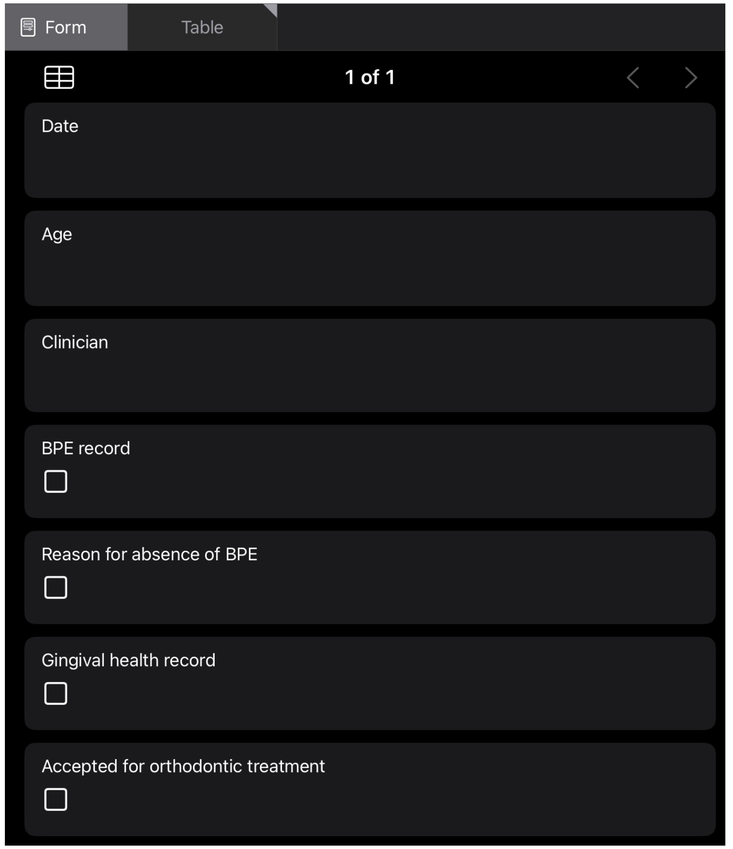
‘It is essential to assess the periodontal condition of the young person before undertaking orthodontic treatment, and the Simplified BPE provides a suitable screening tool.’

Guidelines For Periodontal Screening And Management Of Children And Adolescents Under 18 Years Of Age - BSP and BSPD, Updated September 2021

A recording of BPE or gingival condition (for those aged under 7) for all new patients attending the Orthodontic Department at the School of Dentistry, Belfast.

Methodology

- Retrospective audit
- Population: New patients attending for initial assessment
- Sample size: 61
- Time Period: 01/08/2025-31/10/2025
- Data collection: Encompass patient record software
- Data input and analysis: Apple Numbers



NIMDTA
Northern Ireland
Medical & Dental Training Agency

Results

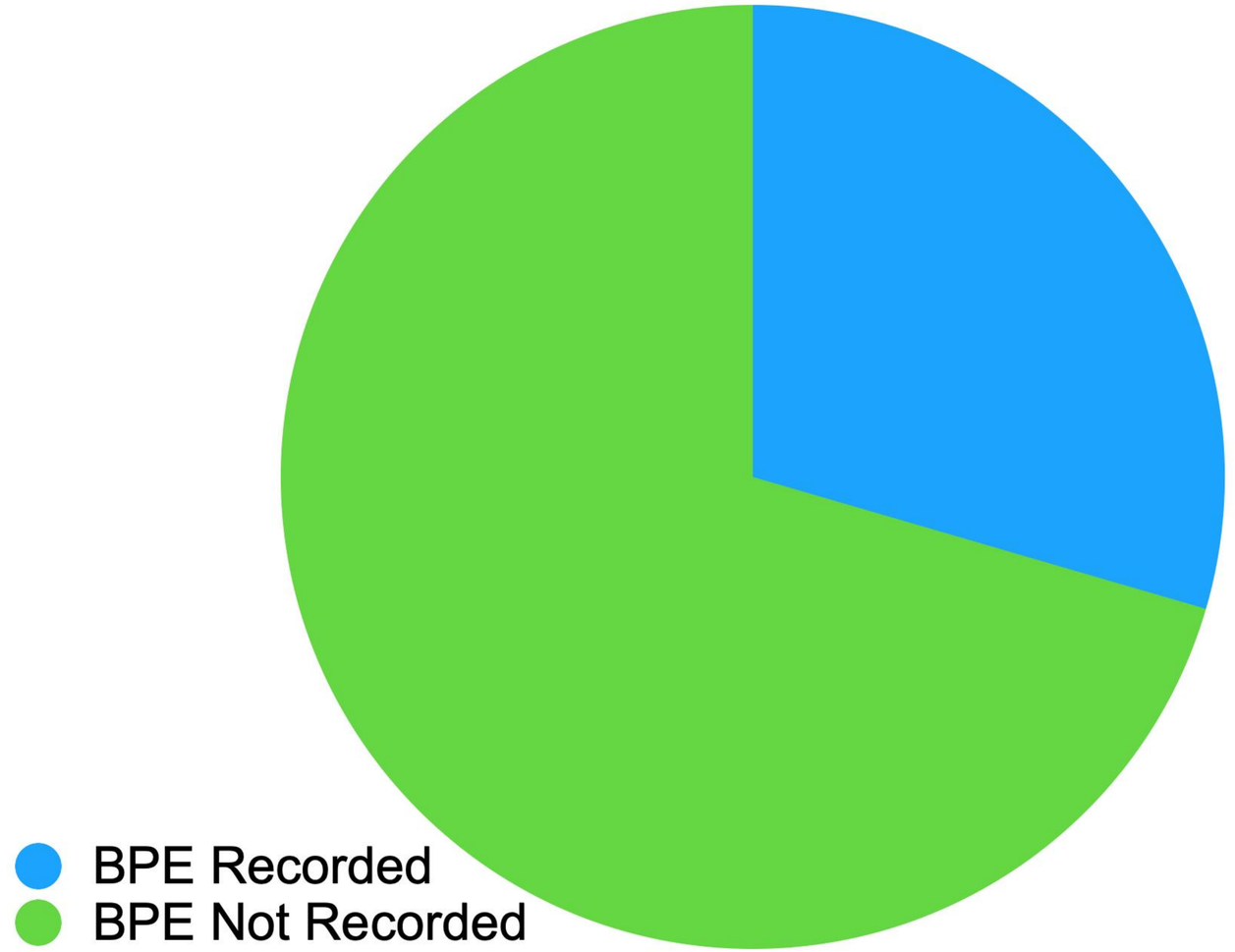
- **All patients sampled aged >7**
- BPE recorded: 29.5% (18/61)
- Accepted for treatment: 68.9% (42/61)
- BPE recorded for those accepted for treatment: 35.7% (15/42)

Date	Age	BPE record	Reason for absence of BPE	Gingival health record	Accepted for orthodontic treatment
03/07/2025	16				✓
03/07/2025	17	✓			
03/07/2025	14			✓	
03/07/2025	14	✓			✓
10/07/2025	13	✓		✓	
10/07/2025	14				✓
10/07/2025	14	✓		✓	✓
10/07/2025	13				
21/07/2025	14	✓		✓	✓
21/07/2025	13	✓		✓	✓
21/07/2025	12				
24/07/2025	9				✓
24/07/2025	9				
28/07/2025	14	✓		✓	✓
28/07/2025	15	✓		✓	✓
28/07/2025	12				✓
28/07/2025	13				✓
29/07/2025	15				✓
31/07/2025	18				
31/07/2025	33				
04/08/2025	10	✓		✓	✓
04/08/2025	12	✓		✓	✓
04/08/2025	28	✓		✓	✓
14/08/2025	17	✓			
14/08/2025	10				✓
14/08/2025	14				
14/08/2025	12				
18/08/2025	13				✓
18/08/2025	18				✓
18/08/2025	12				✓
21/08/2025	14				✓
21/08/2025	10				✓
21/08/2025	12				✓
21/08/2025	13				
01/09/2025	9				✓
01/09/2025	14				
01/09/2025	12				✓
04/09/2025	16				
04/09/2025	9				
08/09/2025	15				✓
08/09/2025	25	✓		✓	✓
08/09/2025	15	✓			✓
08/09/2025	13	✓			✓
15/09/2025	10				✓
15/09/2025	11				✓
15/09/2025	14	✓			✓
18/09/2025	20				✓
18/09/2025	11				✓
18/09/2025	14				✓
22/09/2025	16	✓		✓	✓
22/09/2025	10				✓
22/09/2025	13				✓
22/09/2025	14	✓		✓	✓
25/09/2025	18				
25/09/2025	8				
25/09/2025	17				
25/09/2025	11				✓
29/09/2025	15			✓	✓
29/09/2025	16				✓
29/09/2025	13			✓	✓
29/09/2025	14				
TOTAL		18	0	15	42

NIMDTA
Northern Ireland
Medical & Dental Training Agency

Results

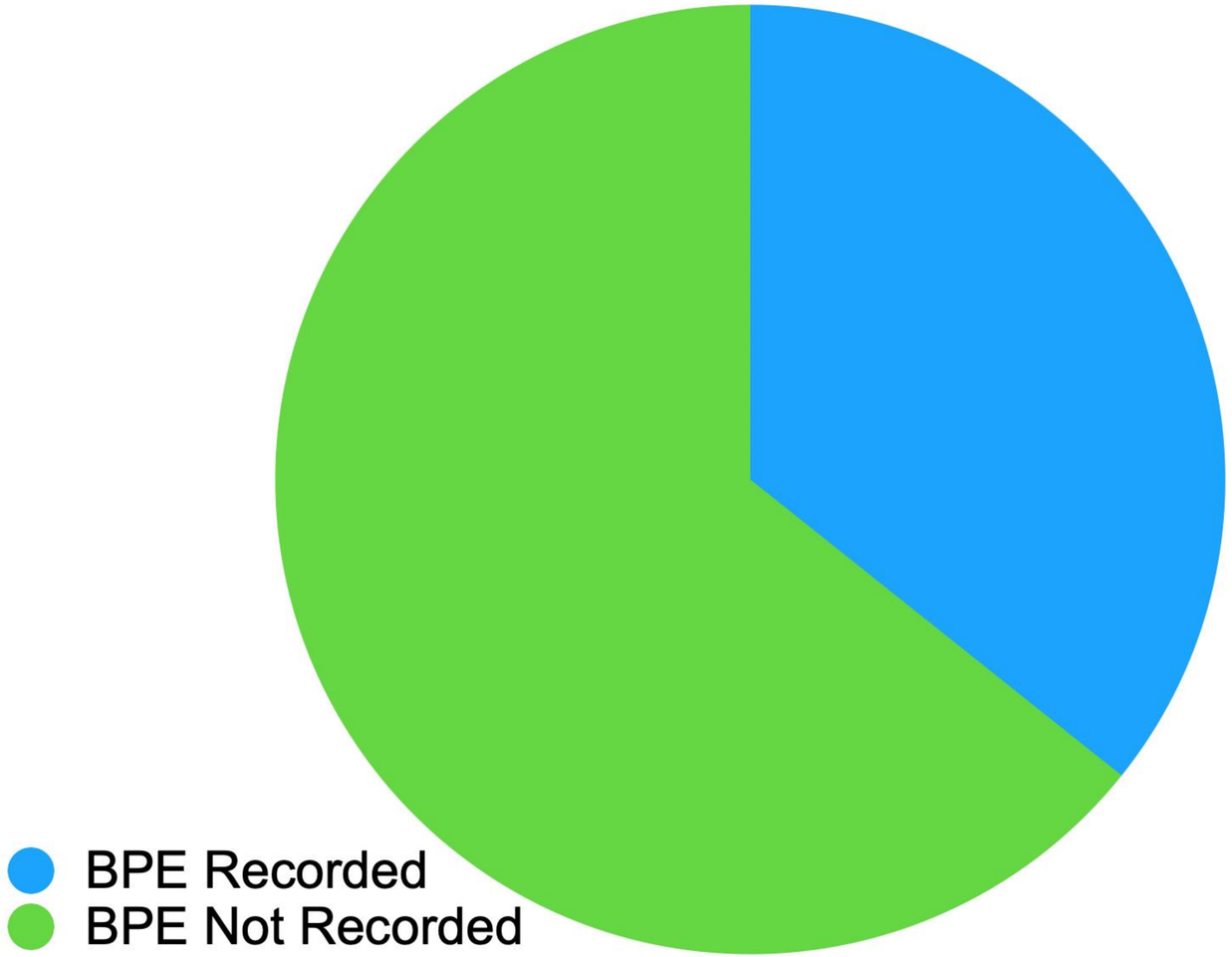
- All patients sampled aged >7
- **BPE recorded: 29.5% (18/61)**
- Accepted for treatment: 68.9% (42/61)
- BPE recorded for those accepted for treatment: 35.7% (15/42)



NIMDTA
Northern Ireland
Medical & Dental Training Agency

Results

- All patients sampled aged >7
- BPE recorded: 29.5% (18/61)
- Accepted for treatment: 68.9% (42/61)
- **BPE recorded for those accepted for treatment: 35.7% (15/42)**



NIMDTA
Northern Ireland
Medical & Dental Training Agency

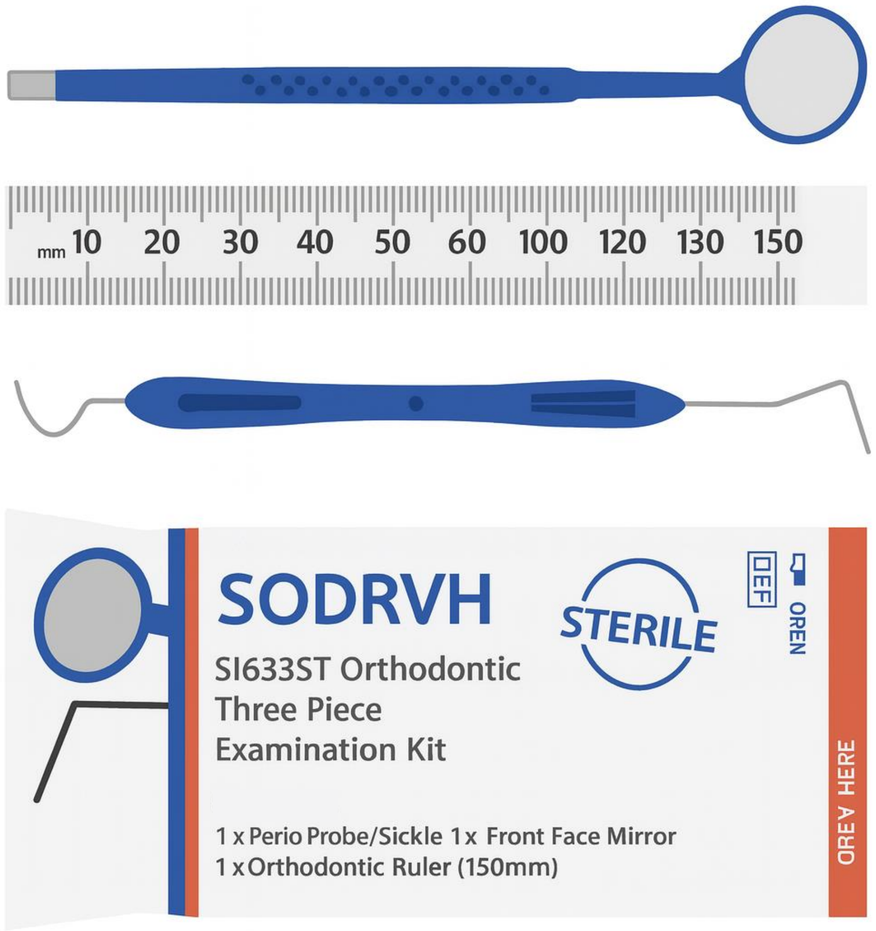
Conclusion

The standard was not met

NIMDTA
Northern Ireland
Medical & Dental Training Agency

Action Plan

- **Disposable exam kits**
- Aide-mémoire

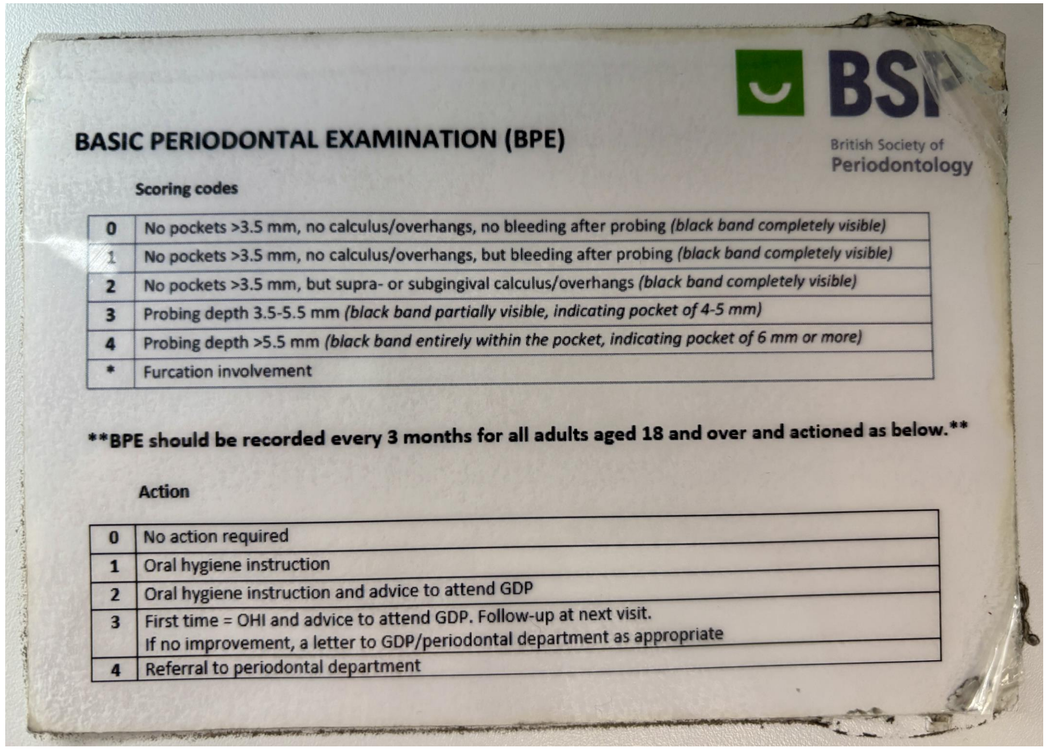


NIMDTA
Northern Ireland
Medical & Dental Training Agency

Action Plan

- Disposable exam kits
- **Aide-mémoire**

Current aide-mémoire



BASIC PERIODONTAL EXAMINATION (BPE)

BSP British Society of Periodontology

Scoring codes

0	No pockets >3.5 mm, no calculus/overhangs, no bleeding after probing *(black band completely visible)*
1	No pockets >3.5 mm, no calculus/overhangs, but bleeding after probing *(black band completely visible)*
2	No pockets >3.5 mm, but supra- or subgingival calculus/overhangs *(black band completely visible)*
3	Probing depth 3.5-5.5 mm *(black band partially visible, indicating pocket of 4-5 mm)*
4	Probing depth >5.5 mm *(black band entirely within the pocket, indicating pocket of 6 mm or more)*
*	Furcation involvement

****BPE should be recorded every 3 months for all adults aged 18 and over and actioned as below.****

Action

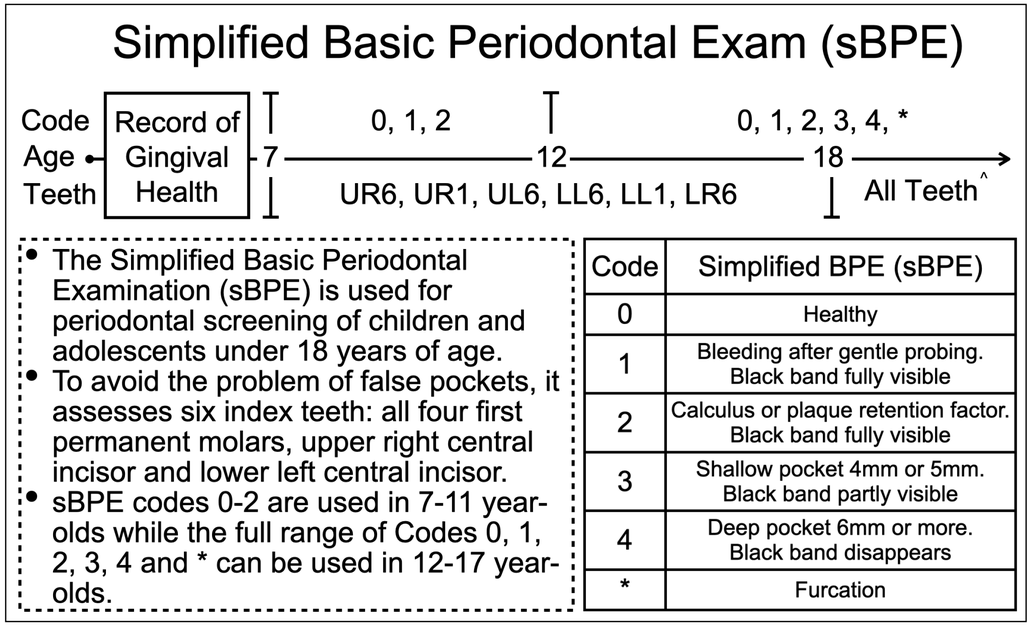
0	No action required
1	Oral hygiene instruction
2	Oral hygiene instruction and advice to attend GDP
3	First time = OHI and advice to attend GDP. Follow-up at next visit. If no improvement, a letter to GDP/periodontal department as appropriate
4	Referral to periodontal department

NIMDTA
Northern Ireland
Medical & Dental Training Agency

Action Plan

- Disposable exam kits
- **Aide-mémoire**

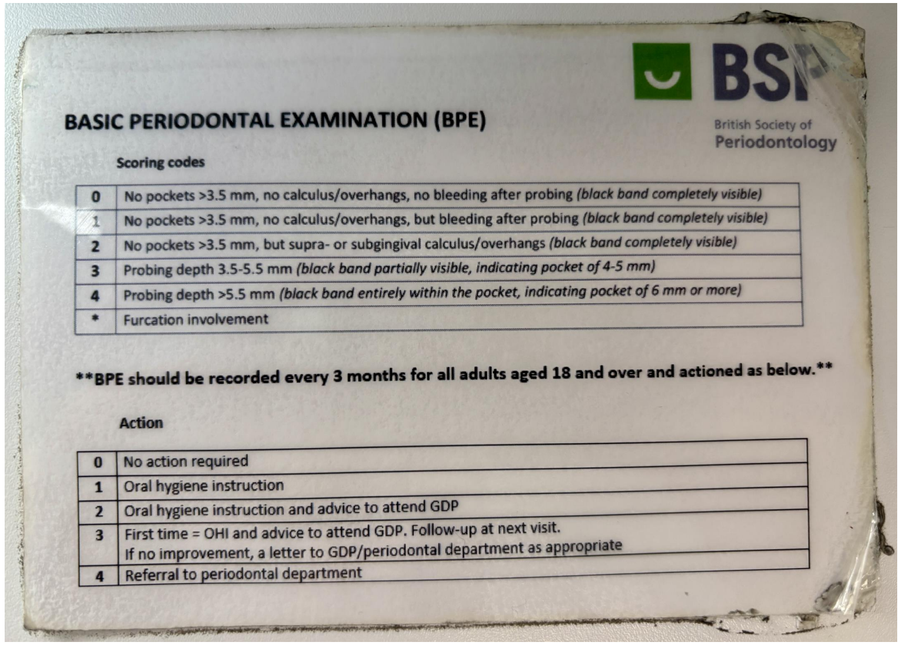
Proposed aide-mémoire



^ All teeth in each sextant are examined (with the exception of 3rd molars unless 1st and/or 2nd molars are missing).

NIMDTA
Northern Ireland
Medical & Dental Training Agency

Comparison



BSP
British Society of Periodontology

BASIC PERIODONTAL EXAMINATION (BPE)

Scoring codes

0	No pockets >3.5 mm, no calculus/overhangs, no bleeding after probing *(black band completely visible)*
1	No pockets >3.5 mm, no calculus/overhangs, but bleeding after probing *(black band completely visible)*
2	No pockets >3.5 mm, but supra- or subgingival calculus/overhangs *(black band completely visible)*
3	Probing depth 3.5-5.5 mm *(black band partially visible, indicating pocket of 4-5 mm)*
4	Probing depth >5.5 mm *(black band entirely within the pocket, indicating pocket of 6 mm or more)*
*	Furcation involvement

****BPE should be recorded every 3 months for all adults aged 18 and over and actioned as below.****

Action

0	No action required
1	Oral hygiene instruction
2	Oral hygiene instruction and advice to attend GDP
3	First time = OHI and advice to attend GDP. Follow-up at next visit. If no improvement, a letter to GDP/periodontal department as appropriate
4	Referral to periodontal department

Simplified Basic Periodontal Exam (sBPE)

		7		12		18	
Code	Record of Gingival Health		0, 1, 2		0, 1, 2, 3, 4, *		
Age							
Teeth			UR6, UR1, UL6, LL6, LL1, LR6				All Teeth

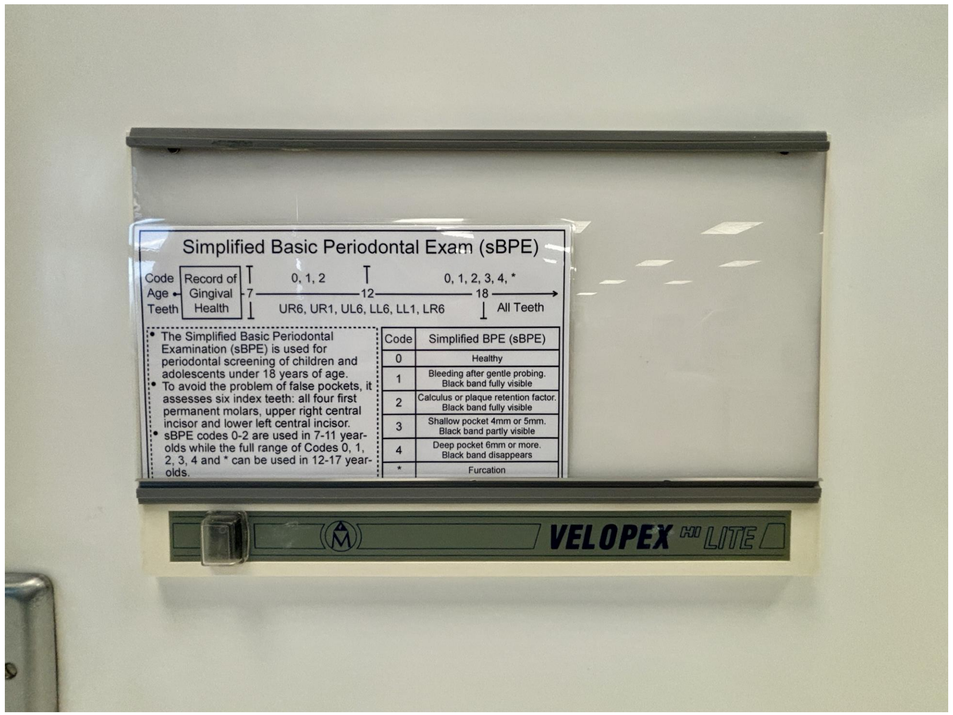
- The Simplified Basic Periodontal Examination (sBPE) is used for periodontal screening of children and adolescents under 18 years of age.
- To avoid the problem of false pockets, it assesses six index teeth: all four first permanent molars, upper right central incisor and lower left central incisor.
- sBPE codes 0-2 are used in 7-11 year-olds while the full range of Codes 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 and * can be used in 12-17 year-olds.

Code	Simplified BPE (sBPE)
0	Healthy
1	Bleeding after gentle probing. Black band fully visible
2	Calculus or plaque retention factor. Black band fully visible
3	Shallow pocket 4mm or 5mm. Black band partly visible
4	Deep pocket 6mm or more. Black band disappears
*	Furcation

NIMDTA
Northern Ireland
Medical & Dental Training Agency

Implementation of Change

- New Aide-mémoires installed 15/01/2026 improved location



NIMDTA
Northern Ireland
Medical & Dental Training Agency

Second Cycle

- Prospective
- Population: New patients attending for initial assessment
- Sample size: 60
- Time Period: 15/01/2026-16/04/2026
- Data collection: Encompass patient record software
- Data input and analysis: Apple Numbers

NIMDTA
Northern Ireland
Medical & Dental Training Agency

Results

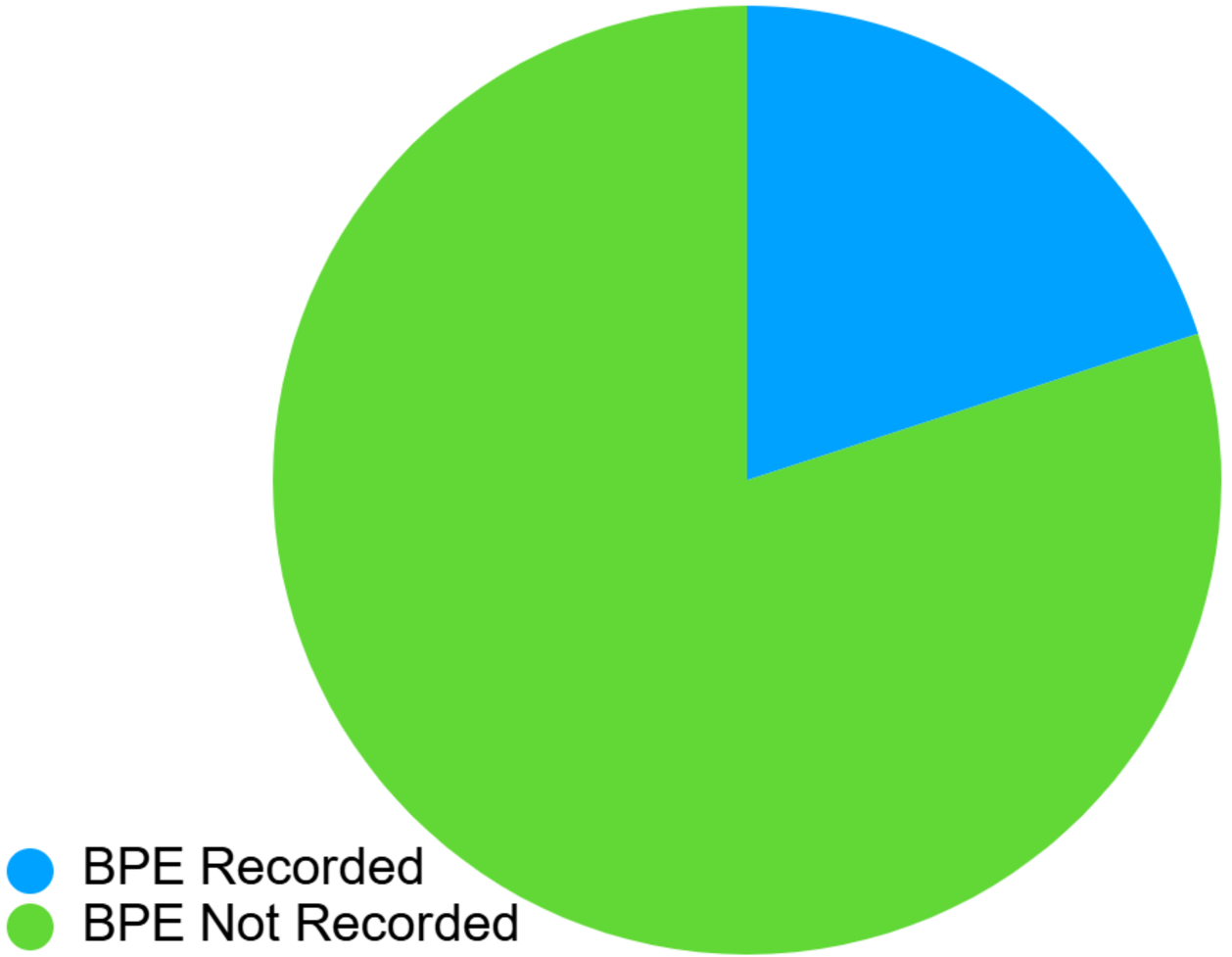
- **All patients sampled aged >7**
- BPE recorded: 20% (12/60)
- Accepted for treatment: 68.3% (41/60)
- BPE recorded for those accepted for treatment: 17.1% (7/41)

Date	Age	BPE record	Reason for absence of BPE	Gingival health record	Accepted for orthodontic treatment
15/01/2026	13			✓	✓
15/02/2026	38				
19/01/2026	10	✓		✓	✓
19/01/2026	15				
19/01/2026	18	✓		✓	✓
19/01/2026	12				✓
26/01/2026	10	✓			✓
26/01/2026	11				✓
26/01/2026	14	✓			✓
26/01/2026	10				✓
26/01/2026	12				✓
26/01/2026	14	✓		✓	✓
26/01/2026	11				✓
29/01/2026	12				✓
29/01/2026	7				✓
29/01/2026	12				✓
29/01/2026	11				✓
29/01/2026	11				✓
29/01/2026	11				✓
02/02/2026	14				
02/02/2026	16	✓		✓	
02/02/2026	15				
02/02/2026	12				✓
05/02/2026	34				✓
05/02/2026	15				
05/02/2026	11				✓
05/02/2026	11				
12/02/2026	16				
12/02/2026	13				
12/02/2026	15				✓
12/02/2026	13				✓
16/02/2026	13				✓
23/02/2026	17			✓	✓
23/02/2026	45	✓			
23/02/2026	8				
23/02/2026	13				✓
26/02/2026	18				✓
26/02/2026	18				
26/02/2026	16			✓	
26/02/2026	15				✓
02/03/2026	14	✓		✓	
02/03/2026	13	✓		✓	✓
02/03/2026	16	✓		✓	
02/03/2026	24	✓		✓	✓
09/03/2026	15				✓
09/03/2026	17				✓
09/03/2026	16				✓
16/03/2026	19				✓
16/03/2026	21				
16/03/2026	14				✓
16/03/2026	14				
23/03/2026	17	✓		✓	
23/03/2026	10				✓
23/03/2026	28				✓
13/04/2026	9				✓
13/04/2026	19				✓
13/04/2026	47			✓	✓
16/04/2026	18				✓
16/04/2026	16				
16/04/2026	12				✓
TOTAL		12	0	13	41

NIMDTA
Northern Ireland
Medical & Dental Training Agency

Results

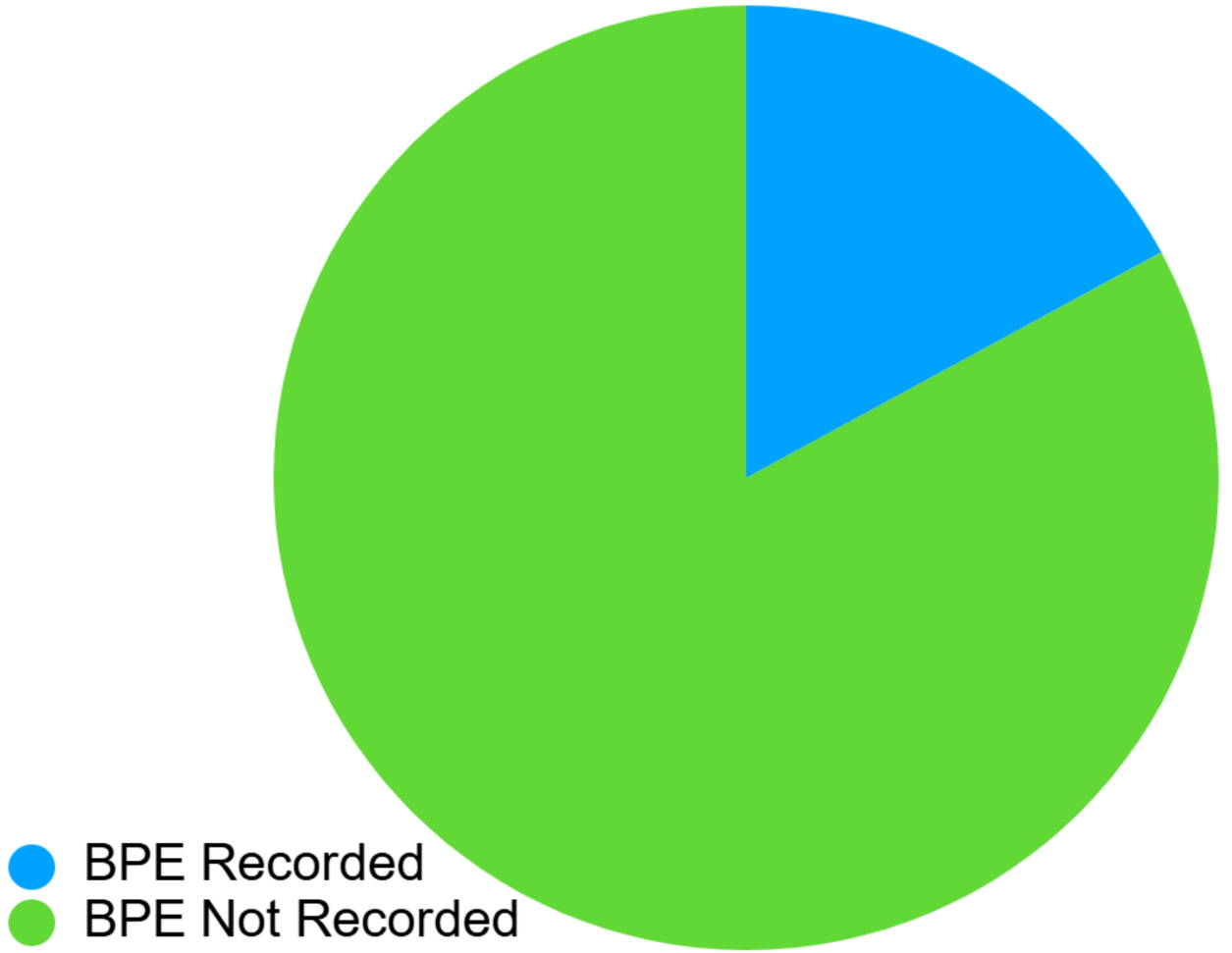
- All patients sampled aged >7
- **BPE recorded: 20% (12/60)**
- Accepted for treatment: 68.3% (41/60)
- BPE recorded for those accepted for treatment: 17.1% (7/41)



NIMDTA
Northern Ireland
Medical & Dental Training Agency

Results

- All patients sampled aged >7
- BPE recorded: 20% (12/60)
- Accepted for treatment: 68.3% (41/60)
- **BPE recorded for those accepted for treatment: 17.1% (7/41)**



NIMDTA
Northern Ireland
Medical & Dental Training Agency

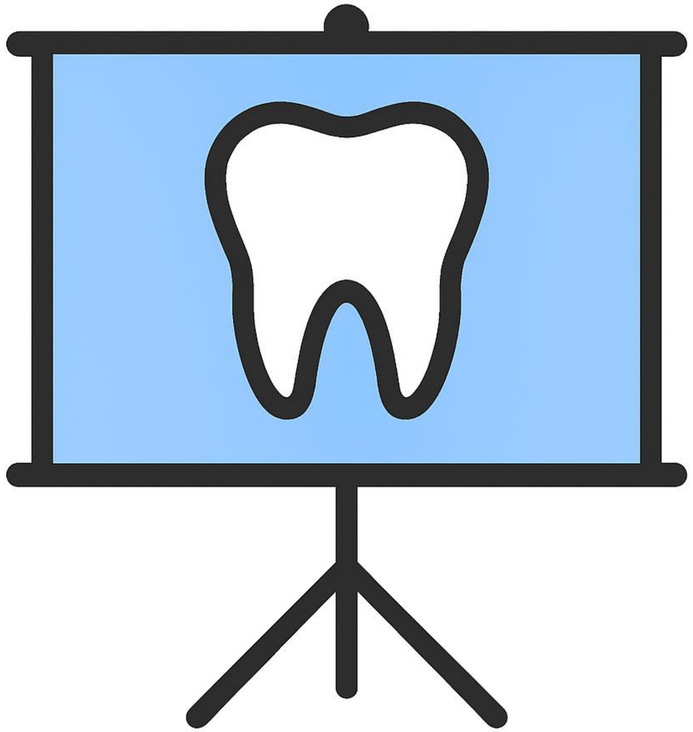
Conclusion

The standard was not met

NIMDTA
Northern Ireland
Medical & Dental Training Agency

Further Action Plan

- **Increase awareness**
  - Email
  - Presentation



NIMDTA
Northern Ireland
Medical & Dental Training Agency

References

1. The UK Implementation guidance of the 2017 Classification for periodontal and peri-implant diseases and conditions maps to the BPE guidelines and is documented in Periodontal diagnosis in the context of the 2017 classification system of periodontal diseases and conditions – Implementation in Clinical Practice, T. Dietrich, P. Ower, M. Tank, N. X. West, C. Walter, I. Needleman, F. J. Hughes, R. Wadia, M. R. Milward, P. J. Hodge, I. L. C. Chapple & on behalf of the British Society of Periodontology, BDJ volume 226, pages 16–22 (11 January 2019) https://www.nature.com/articles/sj.bdj.2019.3
2. GUIDELINES FOR PERIODONTAL SCREENING AND MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE Guidelines produced in conjunction with the British Society of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry and British Society of Paediatric Dentistry, Updated September 2021, Professor Valerie Clerehugh, Emeritus Professor of Periodontology, Department of Restorative Dentistry, School of Dentistry, University of Leeds, on behalf of British Society of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry; Dr Susan Kindelan, Consultant in Paediatric Dentistry, Leeds Dental Institute, Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust, on behalf of British Society of Paediatric Dentistry.

NIMDTA
Northern Ireland
Medical & Dental Training Agency