INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS AND PARENTS OR CARERS

Your orthodontic **records appointment**

What happens next

PORTADOWN ORTHODONTICS

What we **did today**

Today we took records of your teeth. The orthodontist (a dentist who specialises in straightening teeth) will use them to plan your care.

- **A 3D scan.** We moved a small camera wand around your mouth to make a digital copy of your teeth on a computer. There are no messy putty impressions.
- **Photos** of your teeth and face. These show how your teeth and bite fit together.

What **happens next**

- The orthodontist will study your scan and photos.
- We will contact you **within 12 weeks** to explain what we found.
- You do not need to contact us before then, unless you move or change your phone number.
- 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.

Possible **outcomes**

What happens next depends on **two things**:

1. Can you have health service (NHS) braces? The NHS only pays for braces if your teeth are significantly out of position. The orthodontist checks this using a national scoring system called IOTN (Index of Orthodontic Treatment Need). If your need is too mild to qualify, you may be able to choose private (paid-for) treatment instead.

2. Are you ready to start? If some of your adult teeth have not come through yet, it is usually best to wait. We will arrange to see you again in a year or two.

	Ready to start now	Adult teeth still to come
Can have health service (NHS) braces	We will explain your treatment. This may include joining a waiting list.	We will see you again once more adult teeth have come through.
Need too mild for health service (NHS) braces	We can tell you about private treatment. There is no waiting list for private treatment.	We may suggest waiting until your adult teeth have come through.

While **you wait**

- Brush **twice a day** with fluoride toothpaste, last thing at night and one other time.
- Spit out after brushing, but do not rinse. This leaves fluoride on your teeth.
- Keep sugary food and drinks to mealtimes.
- Keep seeing your **regular dentist** for check-ups.

Questions, or not **heard from us?**

Contact us if you have questions, or if you have not heard from us within 12 weeks:

Clinic name	Heathwood House	**Phone**	028 3870 2623
Email	heathwoodhouse@djmaguiredentists.co.uk		
Opening hours	Mon–Thu 8am–5pm; Fri 8am–4pm (usually closed 1–2pm)		

Please have your name and date of birth ready when you contact us.