

**Dear Parent/Guardian,**

We are writing to tell you about an important study that we are doing to find out how well NHS 'Child Friendly Dental Practices' work in Greater Manchester. We want to understand if this approach leads to better long-term dental health and treatment outcomes for children.

Your child was treated at one of the Child Friendly Dental Practices. We are writing to tell you about this work and give you the option to remove your child's dental treatment data from the study if you wish to.

You may have been asked at the dental clinic if you would like to take part in a research study about Child Friendly Dental Practices. The request for you to join the research study would have involved you providing some information. The design of the research study has now changed.

The researchers will not be asking you to provide any information. Instead, we will use dental treatment data that is already recorded as part of normal NHS services and care.

This information on your child's dental treatment will be securely provided by:

- **NHS Business Service Authority (NHS BSA):** This organisation records all NHS dental treatment in England
- **NHS England:** Who collect information on NHS dental services and dental treatment in hospitals
- **The Referral Management Service:** This organisation arranges for NHS dental patients to be treated by a different dentist to their usual one

The University of Manchester will be carrying out the research.

Here is how the process works:

- **Identification:** Children who have used Child Friendly Dental Practices are identified through the Referral Management Service. This is the organisation who refers children to the different NHS dental services they may need.
- **Data Linkage:** The information held by the Referral Management Service is linked to long term data on NHS dental treatment from NHS BSA and NHS England. This tells us how well the treatment at the Child Friendly Dental Practice worked.
- **Types of Data Used:** The identifiable data includes Date of Birth, Name, Postcode, and NHS number.
- **Privacy Protection:** After the data is linked, the NHS will remove any information that could be used to identify your child. This is called anonymisation. The NHS will only provide data to the research team that cannot be used to identify your child (anonymized data). All identifiable data is destroyed.
- **Research:** The University of Manchester research team will use the non-identifiable (anonymized) information provided by the NHS to understand

what has happened in the different NHS dental services for children. This research could lead to improved NHS dental care for children.

Your child's data is handled with the highest level of confidentiality and security. The study processes confidential patient information without consent under special support (section 251) from the Health Research Authority (HRA), on advice from the Confidentiality Advisory Group (CAG).

For further information please visit the following website

<https://www.hra.nhs.uk/about-us/committees-and-services/confidentiality-advisory-group/>

If you do not want your child's data to be used for this study please follow the link below to opt out before the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025.

<https://fds.jotform.com/242312113248040>



The research team analysing the data will never have any data where they can identify your child. They are only interested in the NHS treatment they have received. This research could lead to improved NHS dental care for children across England.

If you wish to know more about the study please visit the following website

<https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/panda/> or contact the PANDA study team on 0161 232 4711

Thank you for your understanding and support.

This document has been translated and is available in

Urdu

Arabic

Polish

Through the following website <https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/panda/>

