



## **BELMONT ORTHODONTIC CENTRE**

5a Belmont, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY1 1TE

### **Consent Policy**

Belmont Orthodontic Centre treats patients politely and with respect, recognising their dignity and rights as individuals. We encourage patients to be involved in decisions about their care and, before embarking on any aspect of patient care, we seek their consent to do so – recognising the rights of patients to decide what happens to their bodies and to refuse advice or treatment.

#### **Valid consent**

We are aware that for consent to be valid it must be given voluntarily by an appropriately informed person who has capacity to consent to the proposed treatment. Those with capacity to consent include:

- The patient
- Someone with parental responsibility for a patient that is under the age of 18
- Someone authorised to do so under a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA)
- Someone who has authority to make treatment decisions as a court appointed deputy.

If a young person (aged 16-17 years) is capable of giving consent, we understand it is not necessary to obtain consent from a parent. If a child under 16 years has sufficient understanding and intelligence of what is involved in the proposed treatment (i.e is Gillick competent), we understand the child may be competent to consent to treatment. However, Belmont Orthodontic Centre recognises it is good practice to involve the family in the decision-making process, unless the young person or child wishes to exclude them.

## **Capacity**

Belmont Orthodontic Centre recognises that when assessing a patient's capacity to make a decision for themselves, we ensure that they can:

- Understand the information that we are giving them
- Retain the information for a long enough period of time to make the decision
- Use the information to make a decision
- Communicate their decision (verbally or non-verbally).

Belmont Orthodontic Centre appreciates that some patients may be able to consent to some treatment, but not to other treatment and may be better at making decisions at some times but not at others. It is important that, for these patients, we assess their ability to take the decision in question and record our conclusions in their clinical notes. We are aware that pain, tiredness, medication, panic and confusion may temporarily affect a patient's capacity to consent.

## **Relevant information**

Belmont Orthodontic Centre appreciates that a person cannot consent to treatment if they have not been fully informed. We make sure that the patient is given sufficient information and in a way that they can understand. We consider inviting them to bring a friend or relative to the appointment so that they can review what was discussed when they have left the surgery.

Our discussions with the patient pertain to explore what they want to know to help them make their decisions and explain:

- The type and extent of treatment being proposed
- Why they think that the treatment is necessary
- The advantages and disadvantages of the proposed treatment
- What alternatives are available
- Any significant risks and side-effects
- What might happen if the treatment is not carried out
- The patient's freedom to choose, even if their choice is not our preferred option
- The patient's right to change their mind and withdraw consent at any time.

Belmont Orthodontic Centre always makes sure that the patient understands whether they are being treated under the NHS or privately and what the associated costs will be. Where a patient embarks on a course of treatment, we give them a written treatment plan and cost estimate (for private patients).

Where changes to the treatment plan are needed, Belmont Orthodontic Centre obtains the patient's agreement and consent, including any changes in the costs and provides them with an amended treatment plan and estimate.

### **Time to think**

Belmont Orthodontic Centre asks patients what they think of the proposed treatment and encourages them to ask questions. We aim to give honest and full answers. We appreciate that Patients may need to discuss their treatment more than once; we therefore encourage them to write down any questions that they want to ask to ensure that nothing is forgotten. Belmont Orthodontic Centre always allows patients time to make their decisions, even if this means deferring the treatment.

### **Voluntary decision making**

Belmont Orthodontic Centre appreciates that decisions about Patient's care must be made by the patient, and without pressure. We make sure that the patient understands that they can refuse to give their consent to the treatment and that they can change their minds at any time – even after the treatment has started.

Belmont Orthodontic Centre appreciates that although the patient does not need to give a reason for refusing treatment or for changing their mind, understanding their concerns will allow us to give Patient's the best advice and make sure that they understand the consequences. Belmont Orthodontic Centre makes a full record of their discussion with the patient in their clinical notes.

**Date:** *31st January 2024*

**Review date:** *31st January 2025 (or sooner if deemed appropriate)*