

**Counties Manukau
District Health Board**

**Oral Health
Health Services Plan**

February 2008

1.0 Current Situation

Currently a range of oral health services is provided to the people of Counties Manukau. Specialist Dental Services are provided by the Oral Health Unit from ADHB, with Child Oral Health Services provided by Waitemata DHB. Some child and adolescent and relief of pain services are provided by community dental practice via Independent Service contracts.

Specialist Dental

Specialist Hospital Dental Services are provided by the Regional Dental Service at Middlemore Hospital and Buckland Road Community Clinic. This includes an Emergency Dental Care service for the Relief of Pain (ROP) which is available for five mornings per week.

Special Needs services are provided as part of the Specialist Dental Service at both Middlemore Hospital and Buckland Road facilities on a sessional basis. These patients have access to sedation and often require involvement of multidisciplinary teams as part of their care. Where possible these needs are met and funded through community providers.

Medically compromised patients meeting defined criteria are eligible to access funded dental services either in hospital/DHB settings, or by appropriate community providers.

Specialist Maxillo-Facial Services are provided by the regional service. Close collaboration occurs between Maxillo-Facial, Specialist Dental, and the Plastic and Reconstructive Service. Acute (trauma) services are provided at Middlemore Hospital frequently in conjunction with other specialties. Regular elective/acute arranged lists are undertaken at Manukau Surgery Centre. Tertiary Maxillo-facial patients are referred to Auckland City Hospital.

Specialist GA lists for children are provided by Auckland Oral Health Unit at Greenlane Clinical Centre and Starship Children's Hospital.

A specialist orthodontic service is provided by one orthodontist for children with cleft lip and palate. While Plastic Surgery has relocated to a module at Manukau Super Clinic, the Dental service has remained as a stand-alone facility at MMH.

A Prosthodontist service attached to the specialist Dental Service provides prosthetics for patients with head and neck cancers or following head and neck surgery.

Non-DHB provided services

The majority of services for adults are not government funded but paid for privately, through Work and Income NZ (WINZ) grants, insurance or ACC. These services are delivered in the community by dentists, dental therapists or dental hygienists.

2.0 Key Issues

Interdependencies between Specialist Dental Services and other services complicate issues relating to the siting of the hospital-based dental unit. Acute OMF surgery, EC consultation, inpatient management and the outpatient/Relief of Pain service is undertaken at MMH. Manukau Campus is configured to provide ambulatory care services including outpatient services and elective surgery.

There is an inadequate number of specialist dentists with paediatric training, public and special needs dentistry and insufficient dentists interested in being involved in the care of adolescents.

There is inadequate integration of care using dental therapists and dental hygienists in both hospital and community settings, and in both public and private dentistry. Addressing this could improve access to affordable dentistry.

As the proportion of the population who are elderly increases, and a larger proportion of the elderly have kept their teeth, there is a need to provide a service for the elderly living in residential care. Many elderly people living in private dwellings are unable to fund their own treatment and options are required to support the elderly.

Improved coordination and response times for publicly funded dental services for patients requiring dental care prior to surgery.

3.0 Key Directions

A comprehensive Oral Health Strategy has been developed by the CMDHB including issues in relation to oral health for children and adolescents. The provision of hospital-based dental will support transfer of services to the Manukau campus with the development of an appropriate module and the retention of acute services at Middlemore Hospital.

- ✓ *To achieve improvements in oral health through Primary Health Organisation initiatives and oral health promotion.*
- ✓ *Increasing the provision of medically compromised care by non-DHB dentists with funding, support and advice from the Specialist Dental Service.*
- ✓ *Improving the input of therapists in triage and the monitoring of adult and adolescent patients.*
- ✓ *Improving access for the elderly in residential care through community based strategies applicable to residential care.*
- ✓ *Development of the Oral Health module at Manukau Super Clinic transferring services from the current Middlemore Hospital Oral Health department. This will provide greater synergy with the Plastic and Reconstructive services provided at Manukau.*
- ✓ *Retention of acute Maxillo-Facial Services at CMDHB - particularly the provision of acute theatre access where surgery is frequently associated with other injuries.*
- ✓ *Development of Oral Health community hubs within PCHC for the development of community based access to targeted services and population groups.*
- ✓ *Investigation and development of expanded services for preventative oral health for target groups such as Maternal, elderly or chronic disease populations.*
- ✓ *Investigate improved access for low income access to some oral surgery such as wisdom teeth.*