

Student Name: Jawaheer Atta

Student Number: 2236701

Module code: LCHS4003_BIRM

Module: Introduction to Health and Social Care

Component 1 Assignment

Lecturer: Mumtaz Goolam

Title: Dentistry Services



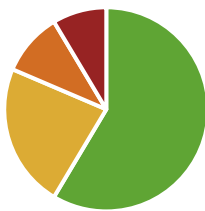
DENTISTRY

What is dentistry?

Dentistry is a branch of healthcare, specifically focusing on:

- Diagnosis of disease
- Prevention of disease
- Treatment of disease of the mouth, teeth, gums and jaw.

Dentists help people maintain standard oral hygiene, prevent tooth decay and gum disease, and restoring teeth through various treatments such as fillings, crowns and dentures. Dentistry also includes oral surgery, orthodontics (braces), and cosmetic procedures like teeth whitening or veneers. Dental professionals do more than just fix teeth, they play an important role in detecting early signs of oral cancer, diabetes or infections, as the mouth often show the first symptoms of other illnesses



- Diagnosis ■ Prevention
- Treatment ■ 4th Qtr

How Dentistry Works Today

In the UK, dentistry is provided through both NHS and private services.

NHS Dental Care:

The NHS dental service offers essential treatments at subsidised prices.

Patients pay one of three standard bands:

- Band 1 (£26.80): Check-up, X-rays, cleaning, preventive advice.
- Band 2 (£73.50): Fillings, root canal work, extractions.
- Band 3 (£319.10): Crowns, dentures, bridges, and more complex work.

Children, pregnant women, and some low-income patients can receive free dental care.

NHS dentists also focus on prevention, encouraging regular check-ups and healthy diets low in sugar.

Private Dentistry:

Private clinics offer wider choice, shorter waiting times, and cosmetic treatments (like whitening or implants) not covered by the NHS. Costs are higher but flexibility and comfort are greater. Many practices operate as mixed surgeries, providing both NHS and private care.

Public Health and Community Dentistry

Some dentists work in community dental services, treating people who find it hard to attend regular clinics — such as children with special needs, elderly patients, or those in care homes. Public health teams also run oral health campaigns in schools and communities to reduce inequalities.

A brief history of dentistry

Dentistry is one of the oldest medical professions. Evidence of dental work goes back to around 7000 BC when tools were used to remove decayed teeth.

- Middle Ages- Barbers often worked as 'dentists', performing tooth exactments and basic treatments
- 18th Century- Dentistry became recognised as a separate medical profession
- 19th Century- The invention of the drill (1871) and anaesthesia (1846) made dental treatments less painful and more effective.
- 20th Century- The creation of the National Health Service in 1984 made dentistry accessible to everyone in the UK, not just the wealthy.

Today, dentistry combines advanced technology like digital X-Rays, laser treatment, their focus: keeping teeth healthy rather than just treating disease.

Challenges faced by the service

NHS Funding and Access to Care

One major issue is the difficulty of accessing NHS dental appointments.

- Many people struggle to register with an NHS dentist due to staff shortages and limited contracts with NHS England.
- According to recent BBC reports, millions of patients cannot find NHS appointments, forcing them to pay privately or go without care.
- Dentists often say that NHS payment structures do not fairly reflect the time and cost of complex treatments, pushing more dentists to leave the NHS system.

This lack of access can lead to oral health inequalities, where low-income families are more likely to suffer from tooth decay and gum disease. It also increases pressure on GPs and A&E departments, as people seek help for dental pain in the wrong place.

Preventive Care and Public Awareness

Another challenge is poor oral hygiene and low awareness of how lifestyle affects dental health.

- High sugar diets, smoking, and alcohol contribute to cavities, gum disease, and oral cancers.
- Some people only visit the dentist when they are in pain instead of for regular check-ups.
- Public health campaigns aim to change this by teaching good brushing habits and encouraging children to reduce sugary snacks and drinks.

Additionally, cultural and language barriers can make it harder for some groups to access advice or feel comfortable seeking dental care.

Technology and Modern Developments:

- Digital imaging and 3D printing for crowns and aligners.
- Online consultations
- Preventive education



The Origins and Development of the National Health Service (NHS)

Introduction

The National Health Service (NHS) is one of the most significant social achievements in British history, founded on the principles of equality and accessibility in healthcare. Established in 1948, the NHS aimed to provide free healthcare to all citizens, regardless of income or social status. This essay explores the historical context and key principles that led to the creation of the NHS, followed by a critical examination of its current structure and functioning in the modern era.

Historical Context and Origins

Before the NHS was created, healthcare in the United Kingdom was largely based on a person's ability to pay. Many working-class families could not afford medical treatment, and access to doctors or hospitals was limited. During the early 20th century, several social reforms attempted to improve health provision, such as the 1911 National Insurance Act, which provided limited coverage for employed men. However, healthcare services remained fragmented and unequal across regions.

The Second World War (1939–1945) played a crucial role in shaping public attitudes towards collective welfare. Wartime experiences revealed the importance of coordinated health services, as hospitals and medical staff worked together to treat large numbers of civilians and soldiers. In 1942, the Beveridge Report, written by Sir William Beveridge, proposed a welfare state to tackle the “five giants” of want, disease, ignorance, squalor, and idleness. The report laid the foundation for post-war social reforms, including the creation of a universal healthcare system.

Aneurin Bevan, the Labour Minister of Health, was central to establishing the NHS. He faced strong opposition from some doctors and political groups who feared loss of income or independence. Despite these challenges, Bevan successfully launched the NHS on 5 July 1948, with three key principles: services should be available to all, free at the point of delivery, and based on clinical need rather than the ability to pay (NHS England, 2023).

Key Principles and Values

The NHS was founded on the principle of universality, ensuring that everyone in the UK had access to healthcare services. Equity was another core value, meaning that resources should be distributed according to need rather than wealth or geography. Additionally, the principle of quality aimed to provide high standards of care delivered by qualified professionals. These principles remain at the heart of the NHS today, reflecting the moral and social vision of post-war Britain.

The Current Structure and Functioning of the NHS

Today, the NHS is a complex organisation made up of four separate systems for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Each operates independently, though all share similar principles. In England, the NHS is managed by the Department of Health and Social Care, with NHS England overseeing the delivery of services. Funding primarily comes from general taxation, making it one of the world's largest publicly funded healthcare systems.

The NHS provides a wide range of services, including hospital care, primary care (GP services), mental health services, community health, and emergency treatment. However, the modern NHS faces several challenges, such as increasing demand due to an ageing population, staff shortages, and financial pressures. Critics argue that underfunding and privatisation threaten the NHS's founding values. In recent years, reforms like the 2012 Health and Social Care Act and the introduction of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) in 2022 have aimed to improve coordination between services and reduce inequalities in care.

Despite its challenges, the NHS remains highly valued by the British public. During the COVID-19 pandemic, its staff were widely recognised for their dedication and resilience. The ongoing debate focuses on how to maintain the NHS's founding principles while adapting to modern health demands and financial realities.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the NHS was born out of a vision for fairness, equality, and collective responsibility after the hardships of war. Rooted in the principles of universality and accessibility, it transformed healthcare from a privilege to a right. Although the NHS continues to face significant structural and financial challenges, it remains a symbol of national pride and social justice. To secure its future, ongoing reforms must balance efficiency with compassion, ensuring that the NHS continues to serve future generations with the same spirit in which it was founded.

References:

Task 1:

1. NHS England. (2025). *NHS dental services overview*. Retrieved from <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/dentists/>
2. Office for National Statistics (ONS). (2024). *Experiences of NHS healthcare services in England*. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthcaresystem/bulletins/experiencesofnhshealthcareservicesinengland/september2024>
3. British Dental Association (BDA). (2024). *The state of NHS dentistry in the UK*. Retrieved from <https://www.bda.org/>
4. Public Health England. (2023). *Oral Health Survey of Adults and Children in England*. Retrieved from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/oral-health>
5. BBC News. (2024, March). *Millions struggle to find NHS dentist in England*. Retrieved from <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health>
6. World Health Organization (WHO). (2023). *Oral health fact sheet*. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/oral-health>
7. Denplan. (2024). *Paying for private dental care: UK oral health survey findings*. Retrieved from <https://www.denplan.co.uk/>

Task 2:

Beveridge, W. (1942). *Social Insurance and Allied Services (The Beveridge Report)*. London: HMSO.

Department of Health and Social Care. (2022). *The Health and Social Care Act 2012: Overview*. London: UK Government.

NHS England. (2023). *The NHS Constitution for England*. Retrieved from <https://www.england.nhs.uk/constitution>

Powell, M. (2013). *The Politics of Health Care Reform in Britain: 1911 to 2011*. London: Routledge.

Webster, C. (2002). *The National Health Service: A Political History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.