A Guide to Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Consultation
Recommendations for Effective OMFS Consultation in the Undergraduate Clinics

When is an OMFS consultation required?
During examination, diagnosis, and treatment planning, when there are complex extractions or other clinical findings which are considered to be beyond the scope of a general practitioner (GP) in private practice, where the clinician would refer the patient to an OMFS for consultation &/or treatment.

- An OMFS can be asked to consult &/or treat a patient when one or more of the following situations is present:
  - Tooth extractions
    - Impacted tooth/teeth
    - Erupted teeth where extraction is likely to be difficult
    - More than 5 teeth are planned for extraction
  - Management of patient anxiety
  - Medically complex patients requiring extraction
  - Implant placement
  - Surgical treatment of pathological findings
  - Trauma, TMJ problems, or Orthognathic concerns

What the student and the clinic instructor need to do PRIOR to requesting the consultation:
- Document the purpose of the consultation, i.e. the specific questions being asked of the surgeon, including whether or not the patient should be treated by an undergraduate student.
- Document the patient’s specific concerns in regards to the consult (eg “patient has problems with pericoronitis around partially impacted tooth #38”), timing of requested procedure (eg “patient will not have crown placed on #37 until #38 has been removed”), general health of patient and all current medications.
- Propose possible answers to your questions to the surgeon before the specialist answers them. **Obtain instructor approval for all the above PRIOR to requesting the consultation**

What the OMFS will do during a consultation:
- Ask the student to state the purpose of the consultation and the specific questions being asked, including whether or not the patient should be treated by an undergraduate student.
- Listen to the student’s summary of the patient’s specific concerns, general health and current medications.
- Ask the student to propose possible answers to his/her questions before providing answers to them.
- Discuss with the student/instructor the OMFS implications/considerations and how they impact the treatment plan and sequence, including the rationale behind the advice.
  - NOTE: when possible, the preceding steps will be conducted with the patient present, on the same day the consultation is requested.
  - When it is not possible to provide same-day consultation (i.e. no surgeon present/available), students should leave a consultation request with the OMFS clinic, and will be scheduled a meeting date/time with a surgeon. In this case, the consultation will be provided based upon radiographs and other charted information. In some cases, a scheduled patient appointment may be necessary.