A Guide to Orthodontic Consultation

Recommendations for Effective Orthodontic Consultation in the Undergraduate Clinics

When is an Orthodontic consultation needed?
- During examination, diagnosis and treatment planning, clinical findings that are considered to be beyond the scope of a general practitioner (GP) in private practice, where the GP would refer the patient to an Orthodontist for consultation and/or treatment.
  - The Orthodontist can be asked to consult on the Orthodontic prognosis and/or recommended treatment of one or more teeth when one or more of the following situations is present:
    - Need to upright teeth for Crown & Bridge, Implants
    - Need to manage space for Crown & Bridge, Implants
    - Potential need for braces due to malocclusion
    - Potential need for interceptive treatment (e.g. habit control, space regaining, space maintenance, growth modification etc...)

What the student and clinic instructor need to do BEFORE requesting the consult:
- Document the purpose of the consultation, and specific questions to be asked of the Orthodontist.
- Document the patient’s Orthodontic overview, the Orthodontic history and status of the specific site of interest, and how it might impact on the proposed restorative treatment plan.
- Propose possible answers to your questions to the Orthodontist before the specialist answers them.
  
  Obtain instructor approval for all the above PRIOR TO requesting the Orthodontic consultation.

What the Orthodontist will do during an Orthodontic consult:
- Ask the student to state the purpose of the consultation and the specific questions being asked.
- Listen to the student’s summary of the Orthodontic history, status and site-specific restorative treatment plan.
- Ask the student to propose possible answers to his/her questions before providing answers to them.
- Discuss with the student/instructor the patient’s short/long term prognosis and recommended Orthodontic and Restorative treatment, as well as the underlying reasons/rationale.
- Confirm whether undergraduate surgery or referral to the Graduate Orthodontic Clinic is required.
  - Complete Graduate Orthodontic Clinic referral form

A referral for a Graduate Orthodontic Screening can be generated once restorative needs have been completed. No consultation is required. Obtain instructor signature PRIOR TO sending the Orthodontic Screening Referral.