

Who may be seen in the Emergency Clinic?

David Leader, 2021

Students see walk-in patients in the EC first come, first served. The EC has capacity to see up to 10 patients per session. For most of the year, EC patients are primarily patients who self-refer, are referred by outside dental practices, or referred from a hospital emergency room. Most sessions we are forced to ask a small number of our walk-in patients to reappoint for another session.

The following are patients who may come to the emergency clinic during clinic open sessions without asking the EC director or the EC manager first:

- Any NPE patient with a dental emergency
- Any assigned patient who has not completed a D0150, comprehensive exam.
- Any patient who has been inactivated or discontinued.
 - Note that patients who were discontinued must be approved for admission to the clinics by a clinical dean, the EC director or a Group Practice Coordinator
- Active general clinic patients during a clinic closed time such as during winter break.
- Patients who are primarily patients of a post-doctoral clinic such as AEGD/GPR

The following are patients who we will refer to their group practices:

- Any patient who has completed a D0150, comprehensive exam
- Any patient who is in the midst of treatment
- Any patient who is an active patient and meets the above criteria

We might see the following patients after consultation with Dr Leader:

- Patients who were dismissed (dismissed patients may only be readmitted with approval by a clinical dean).
- Patients who are being seen in the post-doctoral clinics and pre-doctoral clinics

All other emergency patients are to be seen within their group practices. They may be seen by either student in a pod or another student within the group practice.

Remember that the following emergency exam codes apply to active patients the same as for emergency patients.

- D0130: follow up for a pre-existing issue such as follow up after a simple restoration or recementation of a crown.
- D0140: Limited exam for a new emergent issue such a broken restoration or tooth or a toothache of a tooth that was not treated recently.

Radiographs needed for a D0140 emergency exam are chart added (not waived). For a D0130, the code D02EX (radiographs included in treatment) is used.

The EC will not refer patients to the Tufts Medical Center Emergency Room for a dental complaint. The EC will not refer an inactivated or discontinued patient to the general clinic. The EC will not see a patient

who was dismissed without approval by a clinical dean. During clinic closed sessions such as the Winter Break we only see patients of record and patient referred by the hospital ER.