



# DEPPA: The Denplan PreViser Patient Assessment

Securing the future health of your patients  
and your practice

# Preventive Oral Care

## Care Planning

It is apparent to any clinician that some patients with abundant plaque do not develop periodontal attachment or bone loss, whilst other patients with excellent oral hygiene may suffer from severe periodontitis.

Risk assessment can define where your patients are on that spectrum. It will provide you with the information you need to plan their care pathways and inform their decisions on how they will work with you and follow your advice.



### GDC Standard 2.3

*'Give patients the information they need in a way they can understand so that they can make informed decisions'*

### NICE guidelines:

*The recommended interval between oral health reviews should be determined specifically for each patient and tailored to meet his or her needs, on the basis of an assessment of disease levels and risk of or from dental disease*

*"It's easier to suggest preventive plans and gain patient acceptance when the evidence is right there in front of them" (ER, Dentist)*

## What is oral health risk assessment and why measure it?

**Oral health risk assessment is the comprehensive assessment of hereditary, clinical and lifestyle factors which impact upon the likelihood of developing oral disease, the findings of which are used to support decision making in planning preventive care for the patient.**

Computerised risk assessment uses the best available evidence base to provide consistent and reproducible scores for your patients. Research<sup>2</sup> shows that when dentists use their own judgement, there is little consistency between their opinions.

Perhaps more importantly though, what a system such as DEPPA does is to translate the multiple confusing inputs that a patient experiences in a dental surgery into a form that they can easily understand, empowering them to take control of their current and future health.

*We take it as granted that a modern-day healthcare system can personalise care - so we should expect the same when it comes to prevention and public health... The power of predictive prevention comes from enabling people to look at their health in the context of their own life, their own circumstances, and their own behaviour.*

*DOH Nov 2018*



## What is DEPPA?

DEPPA, the Denplan PreViser Patient Assessment, is designed exclusively for Denplan members. It is an easy-to-use online tool which assesses your patient's risk of developing future oral disease and their current oral health status. It also suggests a fee category (A-E) for capitation purposes so that you and your patients can be confident that the payments they make fairly reflect the care they need.

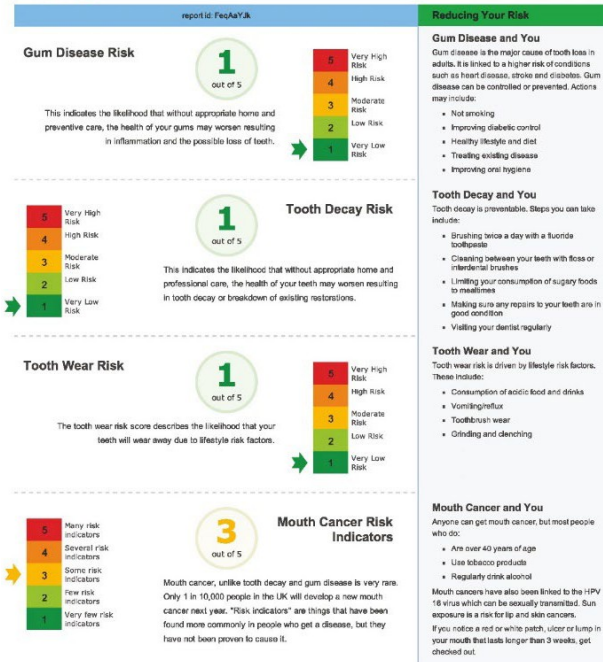
**How it works:** Online questionnaires are completed by patient and practitioner using data collected in a routine examination. Traffic light coloured, personalised reports are instantly generated using PreViser's evidence based algorithms.



### Your Risk of Dental Disease



Prepared For: Emily Anderson  
Exam Date: 17/1/2015  
Prepared by: Simplyhealth Professional Dental  
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Please note: ALL types of screening can produce false negatives/positives and NO algorithm are 100% effective.

## How long does it take?

### Your Current Oral Health

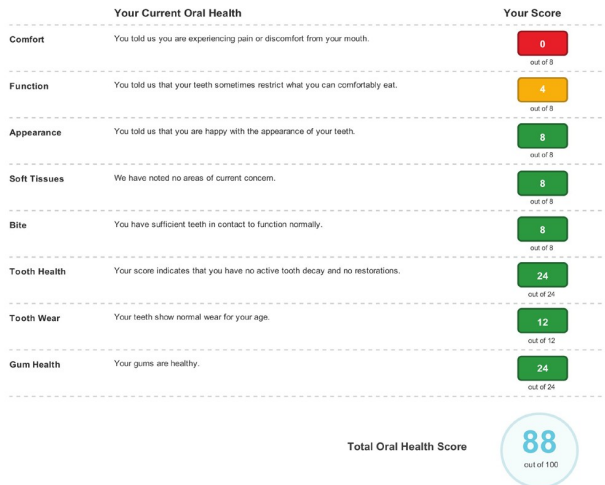
Prepared For: Emily Anderson

Exam Date: 1/11/2015

Prepared by: Denplan Dentist, The Dental Practice, High Street, Littleton



report id: FeqAaYJk



The most important aspect of my oral health to focus on

Clean between your teeth once a day with interdental brushes

Please note: ALL types of screening can produce false negatives/positives and NO algorithms are 100% effective.

*"At first it was an effort, but now that I've done so many, it really doesn't take more than 5 minutes. I'm amazed at the patient response and they love it. Very helpful addition to the exam and would recommend ALL dentists to use it." AP, Dentist*

*"We can confidently complete a DEPPA alongside the examination in our 15-minute time frame." MD, Dentist*

*"You need to spend a little time going through this with your nurse so they understand it perfectly and can complete it as you go through your examination and then it only takes a few minutes" EB, Dentist*

## Young DEPPA

**How do you engage and motivate younger patients and their parents/carers to establish the right behaviours from an early age?**

YDEPPA (Young Denplan PreViser Patient Assessment) provides a framework for a holistic oral health assessment of a child, helping younger patients understand both their current dental health and future disease risk.

Comprehensive, but straightforward and quick to complete, we believe this online tool is right at the leading edge of dental care for young patients.

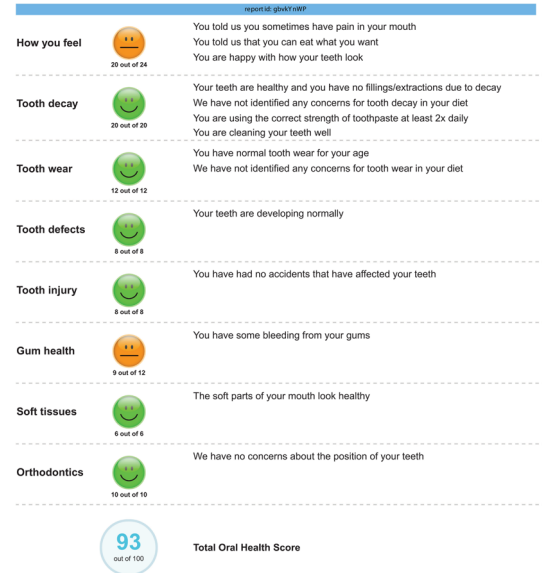
*“At Cwmbran Dental Care, we really love YDEPPA and have used it from its launch. It is a powerful communication tool, engages everyone involved and most importantly, delivers preventive care.” MC & RC, Dentist*

*And it's now available free to all Simplyhealth Professionals' members.*

### Your Oral Health



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Please note: ALL types of screening can produce false negatives/positives and NO algorithms are 100% effective.

## How it benefits your practice:

### Communication

**You know that prevention lies with your patient – you can show and tell them what to do and send them away from your surgery in the best possible shape, but it is then down to them to adopt the behaviours which will protect their future health.**

Behaviour change is hard, but by working with leading health psychologists on PreViser, some key points we have learned are as follows:

- Information needs to be simple to understand and importantly, personalised to the patient. General health messages have their place but don't have the same impact.
- Pictorial presentation: traffic light colours or a simple numerical scale, should support the verbal discussions.
- Setting a target for the patient and monitoring that target on their return visit can drive behaviour change.
- Patients don't recall much from a consultation – you need to give them a report to take away.

*“Without exception I found the patients to take on the information very well. It was incredibly powerful for them to take not only a set of scores home but to take away something that was unique to them...gives ownership to the problems. The simple denoting of traffic light colour scores with it was also very well received”*

**(OS, Dentist)**

*“The assessment process with PreViser visibly changed their attitude to their diagnosis”.*

**(PS, Dentist)**



## Medico-legal

**You are confident that you always do the best for your patients. But we live in an increasingly litigious society.**

Periodontal disease is the fastest growing area in dental litigation.

You need to protect yourself by demonstrating that you have carried out a proper periodontal assessment and have communicated to patients both their risk of developing future disease, if they continue with their current habits, and also their current health status.

*"In today's litigious environment, if I have done a DEPPA and have communicated the results to the patient, they can never come back to me and say that they had no idea they had gum disease for example." MD, Dentist*



*Well informed patients are your best form of indemnity*



## Practice perception

**You are proud of your practice and its preventive approach to patient care. You know that where patients need support, you can provide the best care on a private basis as you can spend the time you need with them, but sometimes it can be frustrating when:**

- they struggle to understand the value of private and NHS care;
- you need to set your practice apart from the one down the road
- new patients question your judgement when it differs from that of their previous clinician

PreViser provides a tangible, personalised report which, beyond the health and communication benefits, gives the ‘wow factor’ and demonstrates that you are using the best available technology to support your preventive approach. The computer at your side also independently reinforces the messages you are giving your patient.

*“In particular, the tool is seen as enhancing the relationship between the patient and practitioner”*

The perceived acceptability of the DEPPA patient assessment tool Newton & Asimakopoulou BDJ 2017

*“The report provides an objective way of communicating to the patient potential disease. This hopefully builds up a trusting relationship as the patient is not having to rely on the word only of the clinician, especially in cases where the patient has never been informed previously by their former dentist that there may be a potential problem”*

**(AM, Dentist)**

*“New patients regularly comment that their previous dentist did not do this, which instantly makes us stand out as a practice”*

**(RC Dentist)**

## Improving patient health

**That is your, and our aim. We are active in research and welcome independent research from third parties. The key question has to be though, does using DEPPA improve patient health?**

The answer is yes and the literature (see [previser.co.uk](http://previser.co.uk)) addresses this from a couple of different angles.

- PreViser has been shown to improve a patient's understanding of periodontal disease seriousness and their susceptibility, making them:
  - ✓ view periodontal disease treatment as more effective than they did pre-consultation;
  - ✓ feel more confident in their ability to adhere to treatment; and
  - ✓ have higher intentions to comply with periodontal management
- More recently, biofeedback from PreViser was reported to significantly improve oral hygiene behaviours of adults and, to significantly improve clinical outcomes by reducing plaque and gingival inflammation scores.

*"PreViser helps to clarify the patient's role in the management of periodontal disease further as it focuses the conversation on 'their' risk factors and what 'they' can do to modify these. It puts the onus on them rather than their dental team....whilst still highlighting the role of the dental team in the process"*

*(OH, Dentist)*

*"The information it provides and the traffic light system it employs make it easy for patients to understand and it is an excellent way of improving communication with patients. I have no hesitation in recommending it wholeheartedly."*

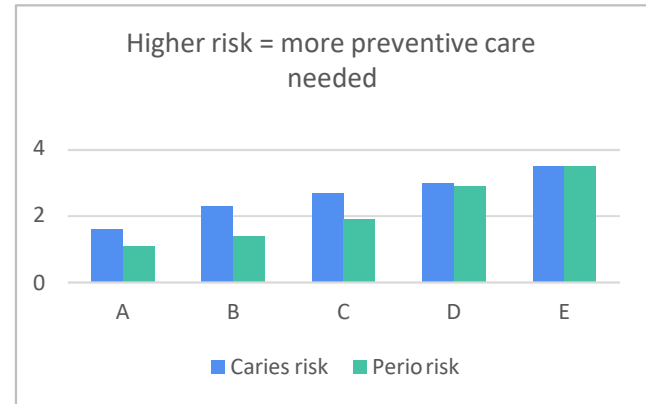
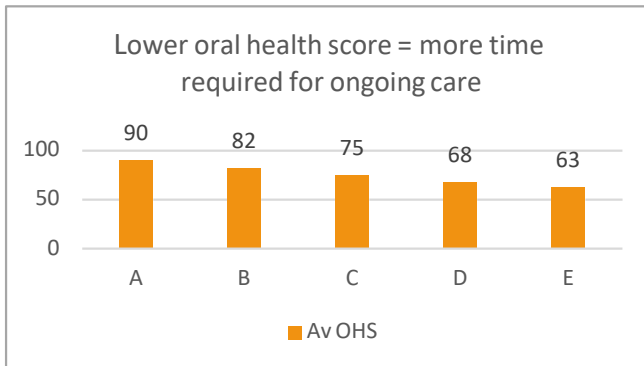
*(RB, Dentist)*

## Setting capitation banding

**DEPPA offers automatic, reliable and valid fee code guidance for Denplan Care contracts.**

The financial health of your practice is predicated on ensuring that the fees your patients pay adequately reflect the care they need. It is essential to review this regularly. It can be difficult to explain to your patients why their banding needs to change, but the DEPPA report provides the evidence you need to support the discussion.

Banding is automatically calculated based on a patient's risk of disease, their current periodontal and tooth health and the level of existing restorations in their mouth. It is optionally printed on the patient's report



*"All my new patients do a DEPPA, as the report helps to show the patient that you have done a very thorough examination and it also indicates which Denplan group they should be placed in." (RH, Dentist)*

*"DEPPA has proved so successful for us that we have built our practice philosophy around it." (MC, Dentist)*

## Research Papers on / using PreViser

1. Longitudinal validation of a risk calculator for periodontal disease. Page, R. et al. JCP; 30: 819-827 (2003)
2. Assessing periodontal disease risk: A comparison of clinicians' assessment versus a computerized tool. Persson, G.R., et al. JADA Vol. 134: 575-582 (2003)
3. Practitioner evaluation of a novel online integrated oral health and risk assessment tool: a practice pilot by Busby M, Chapple E, Matthews R, Chapple I. BDJ 215, 115-120 (2013)
4. Continuing development of an oral health score for clinical audit by Busby M, Chapple L, Matthews R, Burke T, & Chapple I. BDJ 216, E20 (2014)
5. The relationship between oral health risk and disease status and age, and the significance for general dental practice funding by capitation. Busby M, Martin J, Matthews R, Burke T, Chapple I. BDJ 217, E19 (2014)
6. The effects of providing periodontal disease risk information on psychological outcomes – a randomized controlled trial. Asimakopoulou K, Newton T, Daly B, Kutzer Y and Ide M, JCP (2015)
7. Risk factor assessment tools for the prevention of periodontitis progression a systematic review Lang N, Suvan S, Tonetti, M. Journal of Clinical Periodontology Volume 42, Issue S16 S59–S70 (2015)
8. The relationship between general health and lifestyle factors and oral health outcomes. Sharma P, Busby M, Chapple L, Matthews R, Chapple I. BDJ 221, 65 – 69 (2016)
9. Perceived acceptability of the DEPPA patient assessment tool: A questionnaire survey of Denplan Excel Patients. Newton JT and Asimakopoulou K BDJ 222, 767–770 (2017)
10. Practitioner evaluation of an online oral health and risk assessment tool for young patients. Busby M, Fayle S, Chapple L, Clover H, & Chapple I. BDJ 223, 595–599 (2017)

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11. Capitation care fee banding: aspects of reliability and validity of an online tool. Busby M, Chapple L, Clover H, McCreanor J & Chapple I. BDJ 225, 751–755 (2018)
  12. Association between periodontal health status and patient-reported outcomes in patients managed in a non-specialist, general dental practice. Sharma P, Yonel Z, Busby M, Chapple IL, Dietrich T. JCP , Vol 45:12 1440-1447 (2018)
  13. The effect of risk communication on periodontal treatment outcomes: A randomized controlled trial. Asimakopoulou K, Nolan M, McCarthy C, Newton JT. JoP, (2019).