

OET Case Notes

Dentistry · Beginner · Referral letter · to Periodontist

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OET Case Notes: Dentistry Periodontal Referral (Beginner)

THE CASE NOTES

Patient: Mr Ahmed Hassan, 45 years old

Chief complaint: Bleeding gums on brushing for approximately 18 months

Periodontal assessment: Generalised moderate chronic periodontitis; probing depths 4–6 mm in most sextants; Class I furcation involvement at lower first molars

Radiographic findings: Horizontal bone loss 20–30% on OPG (taken 3 months ago)

Treatment provided: Full-mouth scaling and root planing (two visits, 3 months ago); oral hygiene instruction reinforced

Treatment response: Partial improvement; persistent 5–6 mm pocketing in posterior sextants; bleeding on probing still present in 4/6 sextants

Medical history: Controlled type 2 diabetes (HbA1c 52 mmol/mol, reviewed 2 months ago); non-smoker

Medications: Metformin for type 2 diabetes; no relevant drug interactions

Referral reason: Inadequate response to initial therapy; furcation involvement requiring specialist assessment and possible surgical management

Task: Write a referral letter to periodontist Dr Sophie Laurent requesting assessment and a management plan for Mr Hassan, summarising clinical findings, treatment provided, and your reason for referral.

WHAT TO INCLUDE

- + **Probing depths, bone loss percentage, and furcation involvement**
These three findings define severity and justify specialist referral. Without them, the periodontist has no baseline to assess on first appointment.
- + **Treatment already provided and the inadequate response**
This explains why you are referring rather than continuing treatment. A referral without documenting what has already been tried looks like premature escalation.
- + **The diabetes diagnosis and HbA1c**
Diabetes significantly affects periodontal prognosis and surgical risk. The periodontist must know this — it may change the treatment plan and the timing of any surgery.

WHAT TO LEAVE OUT

- **The full content of oral hygiene instructions given**
That the patient received OHI is relevant; what you told them is not. The periodontist will reassess and reinforce hygiene independently.
- **The exact metformin dose**
The class of medication and its relevance is sufficient. 'On metformin for controlled type 2 diabetes' carries the relevant clinical message for a dental referral.

CRITERION IN FOCUS · GENRE & STYLE

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A dental referral to a periodontist is professional correspondence between clinical colleagues. The tone is collegial but precise — not patient-facing plain language, and not overly deferential ('I humbly request'). 'I would be grateful for your assessment and management plan' is the appropriate register. Examiners note when candidates write as if to a patient (too simple) or as if to a superior (too deferential).

Write this letter, then get it marked at writingcorrectionservice.com/oet-writing-services

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