NHS
Business Services Authority

Guidance to completing an ACORN – UPDATED

Sections 1 and 2 can be completed over the phone or using video call software
Sections 3a and 3b – completed in the surgery

Denotes a main data point which must be recorded on the FP17W

Section 1 – Inherent Patient risks from Medical, Social and Dental History

*Medical History – Any risks factors relevant to dental planning e.g. diabetes, dry mouth, medications, mental health conditions	YES or NO
*Social History - Any risks factors relevant to dental planning e.g. is the patient disabled, chaotic lives, children in care, homelessness	YES or NO
*Dental History - Any factors that need to be considered in patients dental care planning e.g. Phobia, anxiety, poor attender, multiple incomplete courses of treatment in the past	YES or NO

Section 2 – Modifiable Behaviours and Protective Factors

Tooth Decay Specific Risks

If 0-7yrs – supervised brushing before bedtime and one more time during the day If >7yrs – brushes at bedtime and one more time during the day	YES or NO
Consumes drinks other than milk and water outside of mealtimes e.g. fizzy drinks, tea, coffee *and/or* Eats sugary snacks, sweets etc outside of mealtimes	YES or NO

Periodontal Health Specific Risks – Over 12yrs only

Smokes and/or use of tobacco products	YES or NO
Brushes at bedtime and one more time during the day	YES or NO
Uses interdental aids e.g. interdental brushes, floss	YES/NO

Other risk or protective factors

Siblings and/or family members with active tooth decay	YES/NO
Alcohol use above recommended limits	YES/NO
Other risks e.g. diet or protective factors e.g. uses a high F toothpaste	YES/NO

Section 3a - Clinical Findings

Soft Tissue Findings, dentures and levels of plaque (all patients)

Record any relevant clinical findings e.g. suspected cancers, ulcers, white patches Levels of plaque – record as Low / Moderate / High

Tooth Decay – dentate patients only

*Total number of teeth in the mouth	Record number
*No active tooth decay (includes arrested decay) **AND** is **Green** on tooth brushing and/or sugar consumption	**Green**
*No active decay into dentine **BUT IS** *Amber* for risks (tooth brushing and/or sugar consumption)	**Amber**
*Active tooth decay into dentine or beyond	**Red**
*If **RED**, Total number of decayed teeth	Record number of dt or DT

*Other Dental Need: e.g. Tooth surface loss, Dental trauma, Repair and maintenance, Cusp fractures, Removal of overhangs, Denture replacement required

Red – Treatment required **Amber – No treatment required now, but regular review and monitoring needed** **Green – No other treatment or need for monitoring identified**

Section 3b - Periodontal Health – Dentate and over 12yrs only

BPE score is recorded

*Periodontal Health

BoP < 10% of sites **AND** pocket depths ≤ 4mm **AND** no BoP at 4mm sites	**Green**
BoP ≥ 10% of sites **AND** pocket depths ≤ 4mm **AND** no BoP at 4mm sites OR presence of key modifiable risk factors e.g. smoking, ineffective tooth brushing	**Amber**
Pocket depths ≥ 5mm **OR** ≥ 4mm with BoP	**Red**

If **Amber** or **Red** – proceed to record a detailed periodontal examination. See here for BSP classification and guidance

FP17W recording for ACORNS:

To summarise, below are the main eight data points, which are directly captured in the assessments, which **must** be recorded in the FP17W.

Medical History	**Yellow / Green**
Social History	**Yellow / Green**
Dental History	**Yellow / Green**
Tooth Decay	**Green / Amber / Red**
Total no. of Teeth in Mouth	**Number inputted**
Number of Decayed Teeth	**Number inputted**
Periodontal Condition	**Green / Amber / Red**
Other Dental Condition	**Green / Amber / Red**

References

1. https://primarycareone.nhs.wales/files/acorn-and-expectations/acorn-guidance-version-1-3-06-12-2021-pdf/

2. https://www.bsperio.org.uk/assets/downloads/111_153050_bsp-flowchart-implementing-the-2017-classification.pdf