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### **Supplementary Material**

#### **Perceptions of general practitioners towards managing dental presentations in Australia: a qualitative study**

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# Supplementary Data 1

## *Interview schedule for general practitioners*

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this study. As outlined in the plain language statement, this study is about your knowledge, views, and experience around managing dental conditions. Today I would like to ask you a few brief questions about yourself and then talk to you about your experiences with patients coming in with their dental conditions. Please let me know if you are uncomfortable with any questions, we can move onto the next question. At any stage if you do not want to continue with the interview, please let me know and we can stop the interview. Do you have any questions before we start?

### Demographic information:

Gender:

How long have you been practising as a GP?

What is the postcode of your main workplace location?

### Semi-structured interview questions:

1. To start, how often do you see patients presenting with dental problems?

Prompts:

- Once a week?
- Once a month?

2. What sort of dental problems do you commonly see?

Prompts:

- Toothache? Facial swelling?
- Cracked or broken teeth? Lost fillings?
- Gum problems?
- Problems with wisdom teeth?
- After an extraction?

3. Think back to your last patient who had a toothache, can you describe that to me?

Prompts:

- How did you manage the patient's conditions (e.g. antibiotics? Pain relief?)
- Was there an expectation or pressure from patients around receiving an antibiotic?
- Did the patient return for a follow up?
- Why do you think the patient saw you and not a dentist?
- Do you worry if a patient has a toothache and you haven't prescribed antibiotics? Why/why not?

Thank you for that. Now, can you tell me what do you do for patients coming for a facial swelling? (go with the similar prompts as above)

4. Where do you usually get your information about managing dental infections?

Prompts

- What guidelines do you use? Therapeutic Guidelines? Continuing professional development?
- Do you prefer to communicate with dentists directly?
- Do you refer patients to the dentist? Public or private? Why/why not?
- Do you feel you have enough information around dental referral pathways for patients? If yes – what referral pathway(s) do you use for what conditions?

5. Why do you think patients present to see you instead of the dentist?

Prompts:

- Do you think patients present because of fear of the dentist? Cost? Difficult to see the dentist? Such as long waiting lists? Can you tell me more about that?
- Do you think there is a belief from patients that they need antibiotics to “calm down” the infection before having dental treatment?
- Do you think some patients “self-manage” their tooth infections with antibiotics instead of attending dental care?

6. What interventions or strategies can be taken to help improve the oral health of the patients you see?

Prompts:

- Managing oral health? Referral pathways?
- Patient education?
- Communication pathways with dentists?

7. Do you have any other comments or suggestions regarding what we have spoken today?