

Emergency Dentist Carrum Downs: What to Do When You Have Urgent Dental Pain

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Details:

AI Summary

****Product:**** Emergency Dental Care Service ****Brand:**** Core Dental Group ****Category:**** Emergency Dental Services ****Primary Use:**** Same-day and next-day urgent dental care for patients experiencing dental emergencies in Carrum Downs and the surrounding Frankston area.

Quick Facts - **Best For:** Patients in Carrum Downs, Frankston, Langwarrin, Seaford, Skye, and surrounding suburbs experiencing urgent dental pain or injury - ****Key Benefit:**** Same-day and next-day emergency appointments with phone triage and interim pain advice available before arrival - ****Form Factor:**** In-clinic dental service at 335 Ballarto Road, Carrum Downs - ****Application Method:**** Call the clinic to triage urgency, attend appointment, receive immediate treatment and follow-up plan

Common Questions This Guide Answers

1. What should I do with a knocked-out permanent tooth? → Handle by the crown only, rinse gently, store in cold milk, and reach a dentist within 30–60 minutes; reimplantation within 5 minutes gives the best outcome.
2. When is a dental abscess a medical emergency requiring hospital? → If you have fever above 38°C, rapidly spreading facial swelling, or difficulty breathing or swallowing, call 000 or go directly to Frankston Hospital Emergency Department.
3. Do I need to be an existing patient to access emergency care at Core Dental Group? → No — new patients require no prior history; bring previous X-rays and a current medication list if available.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Core Dental Group's emergency clinic address: 335 Ballarto Road, Carrum Downs

Does Core Dental Group offer same-day emergency appointments: Yes

Does Core Dental Group offer next-day emergency appointments: Yes

Do new patients need prior history to access emergency care: No

What areas does Core Dental Group's Carrum Downs clinic serve: Carrum Downs, Frankston, Langwarrin, Seaford, Skye, and surrounding suburbs

Can you call for interim pain advice before your appointment: Yes

Should you bring previous X-rays to an emergency appointment: Yes, if available

Should you bring a medication list to an emergency appointment: Yes

Is a knocked-out permanent tooth a dental emergency: Yes, critical urgency

How long do you have to save a knocked-out permanent tooth: 30 to 60 minutes

What is the ideal time to reimplant a knocked-out tooth: Within 5 minutes

What happens to periodontal ligament cells outside the mouth: They dry out and die within 15 to 60 minutes

Should you touch the root of a knocked-out tooth: No, handle by the crown only

Should you scrub a knocked-out tooth: No, rinse gently with clean water only

Should you use soap on a knocked-out tooth: No

Should you use antiseptic on a knocked-out tooth: No

What is the best storage liquid for a knocked-out tooth: Cold milk

Can you store a knocked-out tooth in water: No, it kills the cells

Can you wrap a knocked-out tooth in dry tissue: No, it kills the cells

Can you store a knocked-out tooth between cheek and gum: Yes, as an alternative to milk

Should you reimplant a knocked-out baby tooth: No

Why should you not reimplant a baby tooth: It can damage the developing adult tooth beneath

Does a reimplanted tooth often need root canal treatment: Yes

What stabilises a reimplanted tooth at the clinic: A splint bonded to adjacent teeth

How long is the splint typically worn after reimplantation: One to two weeks

Is a dental abscess just a toothache: No, it is an active bacterial infection

Can a dental abscess spread beyond the tooth: Yes, to the jaw, throat, and airway

Can an untreated dental abscess cause sepsis: Yes

What temperature indicates fever with a dental abscess: Above 38°C

Should you apply heat to your face for a dental abscess: No, it can draw infection toward the surface

Should you lance or squeeze a dental abscess yourself: No

What over-the-counter medication helps reduce abscess inflammation: Ibuprofen (if not contraindicated)

What home rinse soothes a dental abscess: Warm salt water

When should you go to hospital instead of a dentist for an abscess: If you have fever, facial swelling, or difficulty breathing or swallowing

What is the definitive treatment for a dental abscess: Draining the abscess, antibiotics, and root canal or extraction

Is difficulty swallowing a sign to call 000: Yes

Is rapidly spreading facial swelling a reason to call 000: Yes

Is uncontrolled bleeding for 10 to 15 minutes a reason to go to hospital: Yes

What hospital should Carrum Downs patients go to in a medical dental emergency: Frankston Hospital Emergency Department

Can hospital emergency departments perform dentistry: No

What does a hospital typically provide for dental pain: Pain relief and antibiotics only

How many potentially preventable dental hospitalisations occurred in Australia in 2023–24:
Approximately 88,600

What does AIHW stand for: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

What is the estimated annual cost of preventable dental hospitalisations in NSW: Around \$147 million per year

What organisation estimated the \$147 million figure: NSW Council of Social Service (NCOSS)

Does delaying a filling increase treatment cost: Yes, it may escalate to root canal and crown

Should severe toothache be managed with pain relief alone: No, call for an emergency appointment

What self-care helps a severe toothache at night: Keep head elevated to reduce blood pressure to the area

Should you alternate paracetamol and ibuprofen for toothache: Yes, as directed on packaging (check contraindications)

Should you avoid hot and cold foods with a severe toothache: Yes

What is the first step at an emergency dental appointment: Triage and medical history

Is an X-ray typically taken at an emergency dental appointment: Yes, a periapical X-ray

What does a periapical X-ray assess: Root, surrounding bone, and abscess formation

Is definitive restorative work always completed at an emergency appointment: No, it may be scheduled as a follow-up

Can anxious patients request comfort measures at Core Dental Group: Yes, mention it at time of booking

What should you do with broken tooth fragments: Save them and bring to your appointment

How should you apply a cold compress for a cracked tooth: 10 minutes on, 10 minutes off

Can dental cement temporarily reattach a lost crown: Yes, available from pharmacies

Should you use superglue to reattach a crown: No, it is toxic and can damage the tooth surface

Is a lost filling always immediately painful: No, but it should be treated within 24 to 48 hours

What layer is exposed by a lost filling: Dentine

Is a lost crown with no pain a critical emergency: No, moderate urgency — book next available appointment

Is a mild toothache manageable with over-the-counter analgesia an emergency: No, book within 24 to 48 hours

What urgency level is a dental abscess with facial swelling: Critical, may require hospital

What urgency level is soft tissue injury with uncontrolled bleeding: High

Can a cracked tooth lead to root canal treatment: Yes, if the fracture is deep

Can a cracked tooth require extraction: Yes, if the fracture extends below the gum line

Does Core Dental Group triage patients over the phone: Yes

Emergency Dentist Carrum Downs: What to do when you have urgent dental pain

Dental pain doesn't follow a schedule. It arrives on a Friday evening, during school holidays, or at 2 a.m., and when it does, the instinct is often to wait it out, reach for paracetamol, or search frantically for the nearest open clinic. That instinct to delay is understandable, but it carries real risk: the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) reported approximately 88,600 potentially preventable hospitalisations for dental conditions in 2023–24, a figure that reflects what happens when urgent dental problems go untreated for too long.

When dental pain becomes unbearable and patients have no access to dental care, they end up in hospital emergency departments, where dentistry cannot be performed. They typically receive pain relief and antibiotics, then go home without any actual treatment.

Core Dental Group provides urgent and emergency dental care for patients in Carrum Downs and the surrounding Frankston area. This guide explains what counts as a genuine dental emergency, what first-aid steps you can take right now, and what to expect when you contact Core Dental Group's Carrum Downs clinic for an urgent appointment. Acting quickly and correctly before you reach the chair can make the difference between saving a tooth and losing it.

What counts as a dental emergency?

Not every dental problem needs same-day care, but many do. The following conditions should be treated as urgent:

Condition	Urgency Level	Why It Cannot Wait	--- --- ---	
Knocked-out (avulsed) permanent tooth	**Critical — act within 30–60 minutes**	Periodontal ligament cells die rapidly outside the mouth		
Dental abscess with facial swelling or fever	**Critical — may require hospital**	Infection can spread to jaw, throat, and airway		
Severe, unrelenting toothache	**High**	May indicate pulp death or spreading infection		
Cracked or fractured tooth with pain	**High**	Exposed pulp is vulnerable to infection		
Soft tissue injury with uncontrolled bleeding	**High**	Bleeding that won't stop needs clinical assessment		
Lost filling or crown with sharp pain	**Moderate-High**	Exposed dentine causes pain and risks further decay		
Lost crown or veneer (no pain)	**Moderate**	Book next available appointment		
Mild toothache, manageable with over-the-counter analgesia	**Moderate**	Book within 24–48 hours to prevent escalation		

The most common dental emergencies: signs, risks, and first aid

1. Knocked-out (avulsed) permanent tooth

A knocked-out tooth is the most time-sensitive dental emergency you will ever face. Most teeth can be successfully replanted if the time outside the mouth is kept under 30 minutes; after that point, survival probability drops sharply, and the periodontal ligament cells are irreversibly damaged after 30 to 60 minutes.

Those ligament cells on the root surface start dying within roughly 15 to 60 minutes of air exposure. Getting the tooth back in the socket within 5 minutes gives the best chance of long-term survival.

****What to do, step by step:****

1. Pick up the tooth by the crown, the white part you chew with. Never touch the root.
2. Rinse gently with clean water if it's visibly dirty. Don't scrub it, and don't use soap or antiseptic.
3. Try to reinsert it into the socket straight away if the patient is conscious and not at risk of swallowing it. Bite gently on a clean cloth to hold it in place.
4. If you can't reinsert it, store the tooth properly. The composition of milk

helps preserve the periodontal ligament cells, giving you a better chance of successful reimplantation. Put the tooth in a small container filled with enough cold milk to keep it submerged. Alternatively, tuck it between the cheek and gum of the injured person. 5. Call Core Dental Group's Carrum Downs clinic immediately, describe the situation, and get there within 30 minutes.

Don't store the tooth in water, and don't wrap it in a dry tissue. Both will kill the cells that make reimplantation possible.

At an emergency appointment for an avulsed tooth, the dentist cleans the area, repositions and reimplants the tooth if it's still viable, and stabilises it with a splint bonded to the adjacent teeth, usually for one to two weeks. An X-ray confirms the tooth and socket are properly aligned and rules out a fractured root or jaw.

A reimplanted tooth often needs root canal treatment in the days or weeks that follow, because the original nerve rarely survives the injury.

> **Important:** Don't attempt to reimplant a baby tooth. Unlike permanent teeth, putting a primary tooth back in the socket can damage the developing adult tooth beneath it. Bring the child to the clinic for assessment, but leave the tooth out.

2. Dental abscess

A dental abscess is a pocket of pus caused by bacterial infection within or around a tooth. It's not just a bad toothache. It's an active infection that develops when bacteria infiltrate the tissue inside or around a tooth, causing localised inflammation and a buildup of pus. Left untreated, it can spread to the jaw, throat, and airway, and in serious cases lead to sepsis.

Warning signs that need same-day emergency care:

- Severe, throbbing toothache that doesn't respond to paracetamol or ibuprofen
- Facial swelling around the cheek, jaw, or neck
- Fever above 38°C combined with dental pain
- Swollen or tender lymph nodes under the jaw
- A foul taste or sudden rush of fluid in the mouth, which usually means the abscess has burst
- Difficulty opening your mouth fully

When to go directly to a hospital emergency department:

If you have a fever and facial swelling and can't reach a dentist, go to an emergency room. Go immediately if you have trouble breathing or swallowing. These symptoms suggest the infection has moved deeper into your jaw, throat, or neck, and that's a medical emergency, not just a dental one.

First aid while you wait for your appointment:

- Take ibuprofen (if not contraindicated) alongside paracetamol to help reduce inflammation and pain
- Rinse with warm salt water to soothe the area
- Don't apply heat to the outside of your face; it can draw the infection toward the surface
- Don't try to lance or squeeze the abscess yourself

At the clinic, treatment typically involves draining the abscess, prescribing antibiotics, and beginning definitive treatment, which may be root canal therapy to save the tooth or extraction if the tooth can't be restored. (See our guide on [*Root Canal Treatment in Carrum Downs: Separating Myths from Facts*](#) for a detailed explanation of what that procedure involves.)

3. Severe toothache

Severe toothache, the kind that wakes you at 3 a.m. or radiates into your jaw, ear, or temple, is your body signalling that something is seriously wrong. Infection develops when bacteria enter a tooth

through a crack, cavity, or failed dental work. Once they reach the pulp, the soft tissue inside the tooth containing nerves and blood vessels, things can deteriorate quickly.

Toothache that is severe, constant, or unresponsive to over-the-counter pain relief shouldn't be managed with analgesics alone. Call Core Dental Group for an emergency appointment rather than waiting for a routine booking.

****Immediate self-care:**** - Alternate paracetamol and ibuprofen as directed on the packaging, and check for contraindications - Rinse with warm salt water - Avoid very hot, cold, or sweet foods that may aggravate the nerve - Keep your head elevated when lying down to reduce blood pressure to the area

4. Cracked or fractured tooth

A cracked tooth can range from a minor enamel chip to a fracture that splits the tooth down to the root. Symptoms include sharp pain when biting, sensitivity to temperature, or pain that comes and goes unpredictably.

****First aid:**** - Rinse your mouth with warm water - If there's swelling, apply a cold compress to the outside of your face, 10 minutes on, 10 minutes off - Save any broken fragments and bring them to your appointment - Avoid chewing on that side of your mouth

Treatment depends on how far the fracture goes. Minor chips may be repaired with bonding or a veneer; deeper cracks may need a crown or root canal treatment; fractures extending below the gum line may require extraction. (See our guide on **Dental Crowns, Bridges and Veneers in Carrum Downs** for more on restorative options.)

5. Lost filling or crown

A lost filling exposes the dentine beneath, a sensitive, porous layer that's vulnerable to temperature, pressure, and bacteria. It's not always immediately painful, but it should be treated within 24–48 hours to stop decay from reaching the pulp.

****Temporary first aid:**** - Dental cement from a pharmacy can temporarily seal the cavity or hold a crown in place. This is a short-term measure only, not a permanent fix. - Avoid sticky, hard, or chewy foods on that side - Don't use superglue to reattach a crown. It's toxic and can damage the tooth surface.

What to expect at an emergency dental appointment

Knowing what happens when you arrive for an emergency consultation at Core Dental Group can ease anxiety and help you communicate more clearly with your dentist. Here's a typical sequence:

1. ****Triage and history**** — The dentist or dental nurse will ask about the onset, nature, and severity of your pain, any relevant medical history, and current medications.
2. ****Clinical examination**** — The affected area is visually assessed and gently probed. Bite tests or percussion help pinpoint the source of pain.
3. ****Imaging**** — A periapical X-ray is typically taken to assess the root, surrounding bone, and any abscess formation. This takes only a few minutes.
4. ****Diagnosis and treatment options**** — The dentist will explain what's happening and what the immediate options are. In an emergency setting, the priority is to relieve pain and prevent the problem from getting worse. Definitive restorative work may be scheduled as a follow-up.
5. ****Immediate treatment**** — This may include draining an abscess, placing a temporary filling, reimplanting a tooth, prescribing antibiotics or stronger analgesics, or extracting a tooth that can't be saved.
6. ****Follow-up planning**** — You'll leave with a clear plan for any further treatment needed.

Patients who experience dental anxiety are welcome to mention this at the time of booking. Core Dental Group's Carrum Downs team is experienced in supporting anxious patients and can talk through comfort measures before you arrive. (See our guide on **Dental Anxiety in Carrum Downs: How to Overcome Fear and Access Comfortable Care** for strategies that work.)

Why prompt treatment matters: the cost of waiting

The evidence on delayed dental care is straightforward. Delayed or avoided treatment escalates into emergency presentations and hospital admissions that earlier community-based care could often prevent. The AIHW reported approximately 88,600 potentially preventable hospitalisations for dental conditions in 2023–24.

The NSW Council of Social Service (NCOSS) estimates that dental conditions are the leading cause of potentially preventable hospitalisations in NSW, costing the health system around \$147 million per year. Most of these admissions could be avoided with earlier, lower-cost care — routine check-ups, urgent pathways for pain and infection, and timely completion of recommended treatment.

From a patient's perspective, the financial case for prompt treatment is just as clear. A tooth that needs a filling today may need root canal treatment and a crown next month if left untreated, at considerably greater cost and discomfort. (See our guide on **Affordable Dental Care Near Frankston: How to Manage the Cost of Dentistry in Carrum Downs** for a breakdown of treatment costs and payment options.)

Accessing emergency dental care at Core Dental Group Carrum Downs

Core Dental Group's Carrum Downs clinic, at 335 Ballarto Road, offers same-day and next-day emergency appointments for patients in Carrum Downs, Frankston, Langwarrin, Seaford, Skye, and surrounding suburbs. When you call with an urgent dental problem, the team will:

- Triage your situation over the phone to determine urgency
- Reserve an emergency appointment slot as quickly as possible
- Provide interim pain management advice while you wait
- Make sure you're seen by a dentist experienced in managing your specific emergency

New patients don't need any prior history to access emergency care. Bring previous dental X-rays if you have them, along with a list of current medications.

****Call 000 or go directly to Frankston Hospital Emergency Department if you have:**** - Difficulty breathing or swallowing - Rapidly spreading facial swelling affecting your airway - High fever combined with severe facial swelling - Uncontrolled bleeding that doesn't slow after 10–15 minutes of firm pressure

These are signs that a dental infection has become a systemic medical emergency. Don't wait for a dental appointment — call 000 immediately.

Key takeaways

- ****A knocked-out permanent tooth is a race against time.**** Managing an avulsed tooth within the first 30 minutes is essential to tooth survival. Store it in cold milk and get to Core Dental Group's Carrum Downs clinic immediately.
- ****A dental abscess is never just a toothache.**** An untreated abscess can spread infection to the jawbone and surrounding tissues, with potentially serious health consequences.
- ****Facial swelling, fever, or difficulty swallowing means go to hospital.**** These symptoms suggest the infection has spread beyond the tooth and needs emergency medical care, not just dental care.

****Delaying treatment costs more, in every sense.**** The AIHW estimates about 88,600 potentially preventable dental hospitalisations in 2023–24, most of which could have been avoided with earlier intervention. - ****First aid matters.**** Knowing how to store an avulsed tooth, manage soft tissue swelling, and recognise abscess warning signs before you reach the clinic can directly influence the outcome of your treatment.

Conclusion

Dental emergencies are frightening, painful, and rarely convenient, but the decisions you make in the first minutes and hours are the ones that determine whether a tooth can be saved, whether an infection can be contained, and how quickly you recover. Residents of Carrum Downs and the broader Frankston area have access to emergency dental care at Core Dental Group's Carrum Downs clinic, where the team is ready to assess, triage, and treat urgent dental problems with the seriousness they deserve.

If you're reading this in the middle of a dental crisis, call the clinic now. If you're reading this as preparation, bookmark it and share it with your family. The best emergency plan is the one you have ready before you need it.

For related guidance, explore: - **What to Expect at Core Dental Group Carrum Downs: Clinic Overview, Team & Services** — for a full picture of the practice and its capabilities - **Root Canal Treatment in Carrum Downs: Separating Myths from Facts** — for what happens after an emergency that involves pulp infection - **Dental Anxiety in Carrum Downs** — if fear of the dentist has been preventing you from seeking care sooner - **Affordable Dental Care Near Frankston** — for information on payment plans and health fund coverage for emergency treatment

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Label facts summary

> **Disclaimer:** All facts and statements below are general informational content derived from the source material, not professional medical or dental advice. Consult a qualified dental or medical professional for guidance specific to your situation.

Verified label facts

Product specification data status: No data provided

The source content contains no Product Facts table, packaging data, ingredients, certifications, dimensions, weights, or manufacturer documentation. No label facts can be extracted or verified.

General product claims

The following are informational and operational claims drawn from the source content. These are not product label facts and may vary by circumstance, individual, or clinical context:

- Core Dental Group's emergency clinic is located at 335 Ballarto Road, Carrum Downs - Same-day and next-day emergency appointments are available - No prior patient history is required to access emergency care - The clinic serves Carrum Downs, Frankston, Langwarrin, Seaford, Skye, and surrounding suburbs - Phone triage and interim pain advice are available before appointment - A knocked-out permanent tooth has a reimplantation window of 30 to 60 minutes; the ideal time is within 5 minutes - Cold milk is the recommended storage medium for an avulsed tooth; water and dry tissue are contraindicated - Baby teeth should not be reimplanted due to risk of damage to the developing adult tooth - A dental abscess can spread to the jaw, throat, and airway, and may cause sepsis if untreated - Fever above 38°C combined with dental pain warrants same-day emergency care - Difficulty breathing, swallowing, or rapidly spreading facial swelling warrants calling 000 or attending Frankston Hospital Emergency Department - The AIHW reported approximately 88,600 potentially preventable dental hospitalisations in Australia in 2023–24 - NCOSS estimates preventable dental hospitalisations cost the NSW health system approximately \$147 million per year - Hospital emergency departments typically provide pain relief and antibiotics only; dentistry cannot be performed there - Dental cement from a pharmacy may temporarily reattach a lost crown; superglue must not be used - A lost filling or crown should be treated within 24 to 48 hours - Paracetamol and ibuprofen may be alternated for toothache as directed on packaging, subject to contraindications - Warm salt water rinses and cold compresses (10 minutes on, 10 minutes off) are recommended first-aid measures - Emergency appointments typically include triage, clinical examination, periapical X-ray, diagnosis, immediate treatment, and follow-up planning - Anxious patients may request comfort measures at time of booking