

Wisdom Teeth and Oral Surgery - The Specialist Advantage at CSSC

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Description:

Wisdom Teeth and Oral Surgery - The Specialist Advantage at CSSC Your Core Dental dentist takes an OPG X-ray and tells you your wisdom teeth need to come out. For a simple erupted wisdom tooth with...

Details:

Your Core Dental dentist takes an OPG X-ray and tells you your wisdom teeth need to come out. For a simple erupted wisdom tooth with straightforward access, your general dentist can often manage the extraction safely. But when the situation is more complex - impacted teeth, proximity to nerves, multiple surgical extractions, or pathology in the jaw - the case calls for a specialist oral and maxillofacial surgeon.

That is exactly what Collins Street Specialist Centre (CSSC) provides for Core Dental patients.

When Simple Becomes Complex

Not all wisdom teeth are created equal. The difference between a simple extraction and a complex surgical procedure can be significant:

Cases Your Core Dental Dentist Can Manage - Fully erupted wisdom teeth with good access - Simple extractions with minimal root curvature - Teeth not near critical anatomical structures

Cases That Need a Specialist Oral Surgeon at CSSC - **Impacted wisdom teeth** - partially or fully buried in bone, requiring surgical removal with bone removal and tooth sectioning - **Proximity to the inferior alveolar nerve** - the nerve that provides sensation to your lower lip and chin. Damage during extraction can cause temporary or permanent numbness - **Proximity to the maxillary sinus** - upper wisdom teeth sitting close to or within the sinus floor - **Multiple surgical extractions** - removing all four wisdom teeth under IV sedation or general anaesthesia in a single visit - **Pathology** - cysts, tumours, or other abnormalities associated with impacted teeth - **Medical complexity** - patients on blood thinners, bisphosphonates, or with significant medical conditions that increase surgical risk

The Specialist Difference

A specialist oral and maxillofacial surgeon has completed their dental degree plus an additional four to six years of hospital-based surgical training. They are registered with the Dental Board of Australia as specialists. This training includes:

- Thousands of surgical extractions including complex impactions
- Management of surgical complications
- Advanced anaesthesia training including IV sedation
- Hospital-based surgical experience
- Management of jaw fractures, pathology, and trauma

The practical difference? A specialist oral surgeon at CSSC manages complex extractions routinely. What might be a challenging, high-risk procedure for a general dentist is a standard case for a specialist who performs these procedures daily.

Beyond Wisdom Teeth - Oral Surgery at CSSC

Specialist oral surgeons at CSSC manage more than wisdom teeth:

Dental Implant Surgery Placement of dental implants, including cases requiring bone grafting, sinus lifts, or ridge augmentation. When your Core Dental dentist recommends implants, the surgical placement is performed by a specialist at CSSC while your Core Dental dentist manages the final crown or prosthesis.

Jaw Cysts and Tumours Pathology identified on X-rays at Core Dental is referred to CSSC for biopsy, surgical removal, and management.

Surgical Exposure of Impacted Teeth Canine teeth trapped in the bone often need surgical exposure before orthodontic treatment can guide them into position. This is coordinated between the oral surgeon and orthodontist at CSSC.

Bone Grafting When bone loss from tooth loss, infection, or trauma has left insufficient bone for dental implants, specialist bone grafting procedures rebuild the foundation.

Pre-prosthetic Surgery Surgical preparation of the jaw for dentures, implants, or other prostheses when the existing anatomy is unfavourable.

The Core Dental to CSSC Oral Surgery Pathway

1. ****Assessment at Core Dental.**** Your dentist identifies a case requiring specialist surgical management. They discuss the situation with you and explain why specialist referral is appropriate.
2. ****Referral through CareStack.**** Your referral, X-rays, CBCT scans (if taken), and clinical notes are shared instantly through the group's shared patient management system.
3. ****Specialist consultation at CSSC.**** The oral surgeon reviews your case, takes any additional imaging required (CSSC has CBCT 3D imaging on-site), and develops a surgical plan. Costs are discussed and agreed before any procedure.
4. ****Surgery at CSSC.**** The procedure is performed in a purpose-built surgical suite. Options include local anaesthetic, IV sedation, or general anaesthesia depending on the complexity and your preference.
5. ****Post-operative care.**** Immediate post-operative review is managed at CSSC. Once healing is confirmed, your ongoing dental care returns to your local Core Dental practice.

IV Sedation and General Anaesthesia

Many patients prefer not to be awake during surgical procedures. At CSSC, IV sedation is administered by appropriately trained clinicians in a monitored clinical environment. For more complex cases, general anaesthesia is available through affiliated hospital facilities.

This is an important distinction from general dental practices that may offer oral sedation (a tablet) - IV sedation provides a deeper, more controlled level of sedation with continuous monitoring.

Why Not Just Have It Done at My Local Dentist?

For a straightforward extraction, your Core Dental dentist is absolutely the right person. The referral to CSSC happens when the risk profile changes:

- When the nerve is close and the consequences of damage are serious - When bone needs to be removed and the tooth sectioned - When IV sedation or general anaesthesia is clinically appropriate - When the case involves pathology that needs specialist assessment - When multiple complex procedures are needed in one session

The decision to refer is not about your Core Dental dentist lacking confidence. It is about putting you in the hands of the clinician best equipped to manage your specific situation safely.

Your Next Step

If your Core Dental dentist has recommended wisdom teeth removal or other oral surgery, ask about referral to the specialist oral surgery team at CSSC. If you have been putting off dealing with your wisdom teeth, book a check-up at your nearest Core Dental location for an assessment.

Frequently Asked Questions

****How much does wisdom teeth removal at CSSC cost?**** Costs depend on the number of teeth, complexity of impaction, and type of anaesthesia. A detailed quote is provided at your consultation before any treatment. Health fund rebates apply where relevant.

****Can I have all four wisdom teeth out at once?**** Yes. This is one of the advantages of specialist oral surgery at CSSC - all four teeth can be removed in a single session under IV sedation, minimising recovery time and time off work.

****How long is recovery after wisdom teeth surgery?**** Most patients experience swelling and discomfort for three to seven days. Your specialist oral surgeon at CSSC will provide detailed post-operative instructions and medication.

****Will my Core Dental dentist know what happened at CSSC?**** Yes. All treatment records are shared through the same CareStack system. Your Core Dental dentist has full visibility of the surgical notes, post-operative instructions, and any follow-up requirements.

****Do I need a referral?**** Yes. Specialist oral surgery at CSSC is accessed through referral from your Core Dental dentist or another referring practitioner.