

UK dental charting symbols

Surfaces, materials, tooth status, BPE, mobility and furcation on one page.

No national UK standard sets chart symbols. The dental nurse exam board's key (NEBDN Dental Charting, 2020) is the only item-by-item key, and software and practices vary. Codes marked FGDP come from FGDP's record-keeping guidance (2016), which asks each practice to agree its own abbreviation list. BPE: BSP 2019 and BSP/BSPD 2021.

Surfaces	
O	Occlusal: biting surface of premolars and molars
I	Incisal: biting edge of incisors and canines
M	Mesial: nearest the midline
D	Distal: furthest from the midline
B	Buccal: facing the cheek (premolars, molars)
Labial	Facing the lips (incisors, canines)
Cervical	Neck of the tooth, next to the gum
P	Palatal: inner surface, all upper teeth
L	Lingual: inner surface, all lower teeth
MO, DO	Mesio-occlusal, disto-occlusal
MOD	Mesio-occluso-distal (three surfaces)
MID	Mesio-incisal-distal (anterior teeth)
MODBL	Five surfaces, lower tooth (upper: MODBP)

Materials (common shorthand: agree a practice list)	
Comp	Composite
Am	Amalgam
GIC	Glass ionomer cement (never GI)
CR	Crown, material not recorded (NEBDN)
PBC	Porcelain bonded crown (NEBDN); PFM in shorthand
FGC	Full gold crown (NEBDN)
PJC	Porcelain jacket crown (NEBDN)
Zr	Zirconia crown
In full	Lithium disilicate crown (e.g. e.max)
Br (BA / BP)	Bridge (NEBDN: abutment / pontic)
Vn (PV)	Veneer (NEBDN: porcelain veneer)
Inl (GI) / Onl	Inlay (NEBDN: gold inlay) / onlay
RT / RF / RCT	Root treatment (FGDP / NEBDN / informal)
IMP	Implant
TEMP	Temporary filling or dressing (NEBDN)

Tooth status (NEBDN: inner row done, outer row to do)	
Line	Horizontal line: missing (NEBDN)
/ outer row	To be extracted (NEBDN)
X inner row	Recently extracted (NEBDN; US: missing)
rt (RR)	Retained root (FGDP); best written in full
UE / PE	Unerupted / partially erupted (NEBDN)
#	Fractured (NEBDN)
Mob	Mobile (with Miller grade)
TTP	Tender to percussion (FGDP)
Ank, Sup, Sens	Informal: ankylosed, supernumerary, sensitive

BPE codes (BSP 2019, worst finding per sextant)	
0	Pockets <3.5mm, no bleeding, calculus or overhangs
1	Pockets <3.5mm, bleeding on probing
2	Pockets <3.5mm, calculus or plaque-retentive factors
3	3.5 to 5.5mm: after initial therapy, 6PPC in that sextant only
4	Pockets >5.5mm: full 6PPC for the whole mouth
*	Furcation involvement (added to any code)
Under 18	Simplified BPE: 6 index teeth; codes 0-2 at ages 7-11

Mobility (Miller, as commonly modified; versions vary)	
0	No detectable mobility
I	Up to 1mm horizontally
II	More than 1mm horizontally
III	Vertical as well as horizontal (depressible)

Furcation (Hamp degrees)	
I	Horizontal loss of support under 3mm
II	Over 3mm, but not through-and-through
III	Through-and-through

Colour: no UK body sets chart colours	
Exam key	NEBDN is black and white; position shows planned work
Paper habit	Red for disease or work needed; blue or black for existing
Software	Dentally and EXACT show planned treatment in blue

Writing it up

UR6 MOD Comp (placed 12/2024). UR7 distal caries, planned MOD comp. BPE: 1 1 2 / 2 1 1.