## DARTMOUTH DENTAL PRACTICE

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## **Retention Schedule**

The General Data Protection Regulation became active on the 24th of May 2018. They were introduced by the European Union and cover all member states. They are superior to those rules currently covered by the Data Protection Act. These new rules give greater protection to the consumer.

We need to keep records for dento/legal reasons but there is a limit to how long we keep these records. In general we keep patient records for 11 years minimum. In the case of patients under 18 years old we keep records for a minimum of 11 + 18 years = 29 years.

Periodically we go through our physical records and destroy them if they fall outside of the 11 or 29 year category. Cross-Cut shredding is the preferred method. These records are then incinerated through our waste disposal contractor Peak GB Limited.

Digital records are not destroyed unless the patient requests it and they are outside of our dento/legal window. We do archive dental records so that they are not normally available on the Dentally system.