

The state of AI in dentistry

October 2026 edition

24 developments from August 2025 to October 2026, each dated and each with its source.

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In short

Radiograph AI is now in routine use in UK dentistry, but mostly inside the corporate groups. mydentist and GenSmile rolled out Overjet and Pearl across their practices in 2026, and US groups have gone further. The products have moved beyond bitewing caries to panoramics, CBCT and image-quality checking. The biggest US clearances, though, are FDA decisions, and the independent evidence is still thin. A September 2026 meta-analysis pooled only three studies, and the GDC's own review found no UK studies at all. On the front desk, AI phone agents and scribes are multiplying faster than anyone is measuring them. The rules are being rewritten as all this happens. The MHRA has drawn a line around scribes, the government says it has accepted a national commission's 44 recommendations, and the GDC is redrafting what it expects of registrants.

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- ➔ Large UK dental groups have moved radiograph AI from pilot to network-wide use: mydentist chose Overjet for its practices in February 2026 and GenSmile rolled Pearl out across 38 practices in June 2026.
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- ➔ Vendors now cover more than bitewing caries, with FDA clearances for panoramic pathology, CBCT analysis and real-time image-quality checking, but these are US decisions, so UK buyers need to confirm each product's UK regulatory status and cleared functions themselves.
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- ➔ Independent evidence of clinical benefit is still modest: a September 2026 meta-analysis put pooled AI sensitivity for proximal caries at 0.73 from only three studies, and the GDC's 2025 evidence review found no UK-based studies.
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- ➔ Front-desk and documentation AI attracts the most new products and investment, but nearly all of its performance figures come from vendors, and recording patient calls has already led to litigation in the US.
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- ➔ UK regulation is being reshaped rather than settled: the MHRA has said documentation-only scribes are not medical devices, and the government says it has accepted the National Commission's 44 recommendations, but no implementation timetable has been published.
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- ➔ Professional accountability for AI use is unresolved: the GDC has pledged joint principles with other regulators, and indemnifiers are pressing it to spell out duties in its new professionalism framework.
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Radiograph and imaging AI: what the products now do

3 developments

The main imaging vendors have moved from detecting caries on bitewings to reading panoramics and CBCT, and to checking image quality before the patient leaves the chair. Every clearance below was granted by the US FDA. A UK practice should ask each vendor for its UK regulatory status and the exact functions it covers, rather than assume the US claims carry over.

3 Sep 2026

Pearl launches Second Opinion 3D CBCT analysis for general dentists

Pearl made its FDA-cleared 3D imaging AI available to general dentists for the first time, in the same interface they already use for 2D images. The software segments anatomy, lets dentists request a report from an oral and maxillofacial radiologist without leaving the software, and produces claim-ready documentation. General availability covers the US and Canada. AI pathology detection on CBCT is currently available only in Canada, with approval pending in other markets.

Why it matters CBCT reporting is an area where general dentists often lack confidence, so this is worth following. It is not yet a UK product for pathology detection.

Source: [Pearl hellopearl.com](https://hellopearl.com)

4 Aug 2026

Overjet gains FDA clearance for real-time X-ray image-quality checking

Overjet's IRIS imaging software received a second FDA clearance, this time for flagging eight image-quality problems, such as cone cuts and missed coverage, while the patient is still in the chair. In a company study of 1,888 images across 10 sensor makes, judged against a three-dentist consensus, the company reports 92.6% sensitivity and 98.6% specificity. Overjet says installation takes 10 to 15 minutes per surgery.

Why it matters Image-quality checking is a low-risk use that could cut retakes and help with IR(ME)R audit. The performance figures come from the company and have not been independently verified.

Source: [Healthcare Dive \(Overjet press release\)](#) healthcaredive.com

18 Dec 2025

Pearl's AI cleared by FDA to flag pathology on panoramic radiographs

The FDA granted Pearl 510(k) clearance to flag suspected caries, periapical radiolucencies and impacted third molars on panoramic X-rays. The submission was supported by a standalone performance study and a fully crossed multi-reader, multi-case study. Pearl says its FDA-cleared radiologic AI now covers bitewing, periapical, panoramic and CBCT images.

Why it matters Panoramics are a large share of the images a mixed practice takes, so coverage of them makes a subscription more useful. Check that the UK version of the product includes panoramic functions.

Source: [Pearl](https://www.hellopearl.com) hellopearl.com

In 2026 the big deployments came from dental groups, not individual practices. Two UK groups signed network-wide deals with US vendors. The best usage survey available comes from the US and shows that fewer than a quarter of dentists there use AI on images. There is no comparable UK figure.

1 Jul 2026

ADA survey: 43% of US dentists use AI, 23% for imaging

The American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute found that 43.3% of responding US dentists use AI for at least one practice task, and 26.4% plan to. Imaging and diagnostics was the most common use at 22.8%, ahead of insurance verification (13.6%) and explaining findings to patients (13.2%). Fewer than 5% use it for treatment recommendations, and 82.6% do not plan to.

Why it matters This is the best recent benchmark of real use, and it shows dentists using AI for images and admin but not letting it recommend treatment. It is US data, and there is no equivalent UK survey to compare it with.

Source: [American Dental Association Health Policy Institute](https://ada.org) ada.org

4 Jun 2026

GenSmile rolls Pearl radiograph AI out across 38 UK practices

GenSmile, one of the UK's larger privately owned dental groups, extended Pearl's radiograph analysis across its 38-practice network. The software flags caries, bone loss, failing restorations and calculus, and all findings are reviewed by the treating clinician. The group is giving access to the whole team, including reception and treatment coordinators, not just clinicians. Its clinical director had used the software in practice for three years beforehand.

Why it matters This shows how a UK group uses AI: for consistency and governance across a network and for patient communication, not just to make diagnoses. Ask whether non-clinical staff will see AI findings, and how they will talk about them with patients.

Source: [Zenopa](https://zenopa.com) zenopa.com

10 Feb 2026

mydentist selects Overjet for what it calls the UK's largest dental AI rollout

mydentist, the UK's largest dental group, chose Overjet's radiograph AI for its practices. The software annotates caries, calculus, bone levels and periapical radiolucencies in real time, and it integrates with the group's practice management and imaging systems. Diagnostic decisions stay with the clinician. The announcement does not say how many practices are included.

Why it matters A large share of NHS dentistry is now delivered by clinicians who see AI overlays on their radiographs. That will shape what patients expect and what associates are used to when they move between practices.

Source: [Overjet](https://overjet.com) overjet.com

10 Feb 2026

Videa completes AI rollout to all 1,100-plus Aspen Dental practices in six weeks

Videa (VideaHealth) deployed its AI to every Aspen Dental practice in the US, a network of more than 1,100 offices, in six weeks. Pilot offices saw a 12% increase in patients accepting recommended care. Videa says its AI is used by more than 90,000 clinicians across more than 60 dental groups.

Why it matters The headline result is higher treatment acceptance, not better diagnosis. UK buyers should ask whether a tool is sold to improve accuracy or to improve conversion, and be cautious with the second in an NHS setting.

Source: [Videa](https://videa.ai) videa.ai

Admin AI is the busiest area: phone agents that book appointments, voice scribes that write notes, and tools that check images and insurance documents. Almost every performance claim in this area comes from the vendors. The first legal test of AI call monitoring came from the US. The case was dismissed, but it shows the exposure.

11 Sep 2026

Archy raises \$50m to build AI agents for dental practice admin

Archy, a US cloud practice management platform, raised a \$50 million Series C led by JMI Equity, bringing its total funding to \$97 million. It says more than 1,000 practices use the platform and that it processes over \$300 million in payments a year. The money will go into AI agents for administrative and operational work.

Why it matters Investors are betting that AI admin will be built into practice management systems, not sold as separate products. UK practices should expect their own system suppliers to follow, and should ask what is coming before buying separate tools.

Source: [Pulse 2.0](#) [pulse2.com](#)

24 Jul 2026

US judge dismisses wiretap class action over Heartland Dental's AI phone system

A federal judge in Illinois dismissed with prejudice a proposed class action claiming that RingCentral's AI phone service monitored calls to a Heartland Dental-supported practice without patients' consent. The court held that the interception fell within a statutory exception to the federal Wiretap Act. The ruling did not resolve a separate allegation that call data was used to train AI models for other customers.

Why it matters The case failed under US law, but the issue applies in the UK too. Before switching on an AI receptionist, practices should know who records the calls, how patients are told, and whether the vendor can use the data to train its models.

Source: [DrBicuspid](#) [drbicuspid.com](#)

11 Mar 2026

Scottish practices begin trying AI receptionists for routine calls

Scottish Dental magazine reported practices exploring AI receptionists to handle routine bookings, common treatment questions, practice information and NHS registration enquiries, with urgent calls passed to staff. Managers can review call summaries and recordings. The piece was written by the founder of a vendor, ViveoAI, and gives no figures.

Why it matters It sets out the typical scope of an AI receptionist in a UK NHS practice, including registration and waiting-list queries. It offers no evidence of results.

Source: [Scottish Dental magazine](https://sdmag.co.uk) sdmag.co.uk

3 Mar 2026

Henry Schein One adds AI note-taking and image checks across Dentrrix and Dentally

Henry Schein One is adding AI features across Dentrrix, Dentrrix Ascend and Dentally. They include Voice Notes, which records and summarises appointments, and Image Verify, which flags blurred or misaligned clinical images when they are captured. Voice-controlled charting, scheduling and patient communications are planned. The company reports more than 11,000 Dentrrix Ascend and Dentally subscribers.

Why it matters Dentally is widely used in UK practices, so AI may arrive through a software update rather than a separate purchase. Ask which features apply to the UK version and when.

Source: [Distribution Strategy Group](https://distributionstrategy.com) distributionstrategy.com

2 Dec 2025

Overjet acquires DentalBee voice documentation platform

Overjet bought DentalBee, a voice-based clinical documentation platform offering hands-free perio charting, automated clinical notes, referral letters and compliance insights. The price was not disclosed. Overjet says it will continue to support existing DentalBee customers, and its voice AI features are available through an early-access waitlist.

Why it matters Imaging AI vendors are building complete chairside suites that combine diagnosis, notes and billing. That makes it harder to change supplier later, so check the contract terms on data export.

Source: [Overjet](https://overjet.com) overjet.com

2 Oct 2025

UK start-up Boxly launches AI receptionist for dental practices

Boxly launched a round-the-clock AI receptionist that answers patient enquiries with treatment-specific responses, books directly into the practice diary and follows up by WhatsApp or social media. No pricing was given. The company's claim that it could double website conversions is not supported by data in the article, which was sponsored by Boxly.

Why it matters It is one of several UK-built options aimed mainly at private new-patient enquiries. Treat its conversion claims as marketing until a practice publishes its own figures.

Source: [Dentistry.co.uk](https://www.dentistry.co.uk)

25 Sep 2025

Wildix and RoboReception report 50,000 calls answered across 65 UK practices

Wildix and RoboReception said their AI receptionist had answered more than 50,000 calls at 65 UK dental practices since May 2025. They report that 96% of calls were resolved without staff, that booking rates rose from 18% to 70%, and that late cancellations fell by 75%. Their £9 million revenue figure is described inconsistently in the report.

Why it matters These are the most detailed UK figures for an AI receptionist available. They come from the vendors and include projections, so ask for raw call data from a reference practice before you sign.

Source: [IT Brief UK](https://www.itbrief.co.uk) [itbrief.co.uk](https://www.itbrief.co.uk)

Three things moved in the UK at once: MHRA device regulation, a cross-government review of AI in healthcare, and the GDC's rewrite of its standards. The clearest practical point so far is the MHRA's line on scribes. Most of the rest is principles and recommendations, with no published dates for implementation.

6 Oct 2026

Government says it has accepted the National Commission's AI recommendations

A government guidance page for healthcare providers says the government has accepted the Commission's recommendations and will implement them across government. Providers are promised better evidence for comparing products, clearer expectations about safeguards before deployment and who is responsible for them, practical readiness tools, and role-specific training. No dates or milestones are given.

Why it matters Practices should expect clearer rules on deployment, monitoring and staff training for AI tools. Until a timetable is published, there are no new obligations.

Source: [GOV.UK](https://gov.uk)

17 Sep 2026

GDC joins other health regulators in pledging principles for AI use

The General Dental Council joined the UK regulators for medicine, nursing and midwifery, and social work in a joint statement promising high-level principles on AI use. The principles are to cover what professionals are expected to do, especially telling patients when AI is involved in their care. The regulators described the statement as the start of a formal collaboration.

Why it matters Telling patients when AI is used is likely to become a professional expectation. Practices using radiograph AI should consider now how they would explain it to patients.

Source: [Dentistry.co.uk](https://dentistry.co.uk)

10 Sep 2026

National Commission sets out 44 recommendations for regulating AI in healthcare

The National Commission into the Regulation of AI in Healthcare, set up by the MHRA in September 2025, published 44 recommendations based on evidence from more than 12,000 people. They include staged authorisation for new AI models, monitoring of devices throughout their working life, a public database of safety information for each device, telling patients proportionately when AI is used, and stronger MHRA enforcement powers.

Why it matters If adopted, the framework would mean regulation continues after purchase, through post-market monitoring and incident reporting. Practices would have a role in reporting how AI tools perform once they are in use.

Source: [GOV.UK \(MHRA\)](https://gov.uk/mhra) gov.uk

9 Sep 2026

Dental Protection presses GDC for clear guidance on AI responsibilities

In its response to the GDC's consultation on a new Framework for Professionalism, which would replace the current Standards for the Dental Team, Dental Protection asked for clarity on professional accountability, independent judgement, checking AI-generated information, and understanding a system's limitations. It warned that open-ended expectations could create uncertainty for registrants.

Why it matters Indemnifiers want the duties written down before claims arise. Until they are, the safest assumption is that the clinician answers for any AI-assisted decision.

Source: [GDPUK](https://gdpuk.com) gdpuk.com

2 Aug 2026

MHRA guidance: documentation-only AI scribes are not medical devices

Guidance from the MHRA, developed with NHS England, says that tools used only for transcription, consultation summaries, draft referral letters or suggested clinical codes for clinician review are not medical devices under current law. Products aimed at diagnosis or treatment, or that act without clinician sign-off, are regulated as devices. Clinicians remain responsible for checking AI output before it is used in care.

Why it matters This is the most practical regulatory clarification of the year for practices. Check which category each feature of your scribe or practice software falls into.

Source: [Dentistry.co.uk](https://dentistry.co.uk)

17 Jul 2026

MHRA AI Airlock: disclaimers alone do not keep a product outside device rules

The MHRA published case-study reports from phase 2 of its AI Airlock sandbox, with seven participants. An amended recommendation says manufacturers cannot keep a product out of device regulation through wording or disclaimers alone, and that those near the boundary should contact the MHRA before deployment. The reports are not formal MHRA policy.

Why it matters Be wary of AI tools marketed as 'not for diagnostic use' that in practice influence diagnosis. The regulator is signalling that labels do not settle the question.

Source: [LexisNexis](https://www.lexisnexis.co.uk) [lexisnexis.co.uk](https://www.lexisnexis.co.uk)

8 Oct 2025

MHRA plans faster UK routes for FDA-cleared devices from 2027

The MHRA announced closer cooperation with the US FDA, including planned reliance routes that would let devices cleared through FDA 510(k), De Novo or PMA reach the UK market faster. The routes are due to open from 2027, and the wider reforms are intended to be legislated in 2026.

Why it matters Most dental AI clearances are FDA 510(k)s, so this could narrow the gap between what is sold in the US and what UK practices can buy. It is not in force yet.

Source: [GOV.UK \(MHRA\)](https://gov.uk/mhra) gov.uk

The independent research base is small and mostly from outside the UK. Investment, by contrast, continues to grow. Readers should treat these as separate signals: a large funding round shows investor confidence, not clinical benefit.

30 Sep 2026

Meta-analysis puts AI proximal caries sensitivity at 0.73 on bitewings

A systematic review in the Bangkok Medical Journal, with searches up to March 2026, included 11 studies. Only three had enough data to pool. Pooled sensitivity was 0.73 (95% CI 0.70 to 0.75) and specificity 0.92 (95% CI 0.69 to 0.99). The author cites heterogeneity and limited external validation, and calls for prospective multicentre studies.

Why it matters The result is encouraging but rests on very little data, and the specificity range is wide enough to include many false positives. Use it as a reason to audit your own results, not as proof.

Source: [The Bangkok Medical Journal](https://he02.tci-thaijo.org) he02.tci-thaijo.org

10 Feb 2026

DentalMonitoring raises about €85m for AI remote orthodontic monitoring

Paris-based DentalMonitoring raised a growth round of about €85 million from ISALT's Fonds Stratégique des Transitions and Lazard Elaia Capital. The company has more than 470 patents and FDA De Novo authorisation for its AI, which is trained on millions of clinical images.

Why it matters It is the largest dental AI funding round in this report, and it is for remote monitoring rather than radiographs. That matters most to practices offering aligners or orthodontics.

Source: [ISALT](https://isalt-gestion.com) isalt-gestion.com

12 Aug 2025

GDC evidence review finds AI use in dental services limited and no UK studies

A rapid evidence assessment by Peninsula Dental School for the GDC reviewed 45 studies from 12 countries published since 2020. Eighteen were from China, 13 from the US, and none from the UK. It found that real-world implementation remains limited, and identified gaps in large-scale trials, best-practice guidelines, data protection and equality impacts.

Why it matters The regulator's own review found no UK evidence. A UK practice buying AI is relying on overseas studies and vendor data, and should monitor how the tool performs in its own setting.

Source: [General Dental Council](https://gdc-uk.org) gdc-uk.org

What to watch next

↑ **How the Commission's recommendations are put into practice**

The government says it has accepted the 44 recommendations but has published no timetable. Watch for draft legislation, MHRA guidance on staged authorisation and post-market monitoring, and any duty on practices to report AI incidents. The planned routes for FDA-cleared devices are due from 2027.

↑ **The GDC's final Framework for Professionalism**

Consultation on the replacement for the Standards for the Dental Team closed on 31 August 2026. The open question is whether the final text sets explicit duties on telling patients about AI, checking its output and understanding a system's limits, as Dental Protection has asked. The joint regulators' principles on AI are also still to come.

↑ **Whether UK practices get UK evidence**

The GDC's review found no UK studies, and the most-cited performance figures come from vendors or small overseas samples. Watch for published UK audits from the large groups that have rolled out radiograph AI. Their data could show whether detection gains carry over to NHS patients and change treatment, not just treatment acceptance.

↑ **Data use and consent for AI phone agents and scribes**

The Heartland Dental case was dismissed, but it left unresolved the allegation that call data was used to train the vendor's models. As UK practices adopt AI receptionists and scribes, expect more scrutiny of recording notices, data processing terms and secondary use of patient data. Check these terms in your contract now.

↑ **Wider 3D and panoramic AI in UK products**

Pearl's CBCT pathology detection is so far available only in Canada, with approval pending elsewhere, and recent panoramic and image-quality clearances are FDA decisions. Watch for confirmation of which of these functions are approved and switched on in UK versions of the products.

How this report was made

Every development here was found in a public source dated from August 2025 to October 2026: trade press, regulators, journals and company announcements. Each one names its source, so you can read the original.

All 24 source links were checked on 12 Oct 2026; one of those sites does not allow automated checking, so that link was not opened by the check. Nothing here is advice; it is a record of what happened.

The next edition, and the guides behind this one, are at aident.co.uk/report/