

Dear Colleague

Summary

1. The Memorandum to this letter advises dentists and dental bodies corporate (DBC's) of IT hardware and software specification standards for working with NHS patient data.

Action

2. NHS Boards are asked to issue the Memorandum to this letter to all dentists and dental bodies corporate on their dental lists.

Yours sincerely

MARGIE TAYLOR
Chief Dental Officer

25 October 2017

Addresses

For action
Chief Executives, NHS Boards

Director, Practitioner Services

For information
Chief Executive,
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Chief Executive,
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**DENTISTS/DENTAL BODIES CORPORATE
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES**

Introduction

1. The purpose of this Memorandum is to ensure that dentists and dental bodies corporate are aware of the minimum IT hardware and software specification standards for working with NHS patient data.
2. This advice is being given to dentists and dental bodies corporate as a consequence of the recent Ransomware attack in the UK. **The intention is to refresh this advice each year in October.**

Minimum Specifications

3. The e-Dental Programme Board of the Scottish Government has advised the following **minimum** IT hardware and software specifications for independent general dental practices when working with NHS patient data:

Type	Specification
Operating System	Minimum: Windows 7 Recommended: Windows 10
Hardware	Minimum specification: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hard Disk and Memory capacity to meet practice requirements• Screen Monitor Resolution 1024x768
Web Browser	Minimum Specification: Internet Explorer Version 10 with pop-ups enabled (e-payments web form requires Internet Explorer Version 11)
Security	Anti-virus software installed and enabled and regularly updated
Windows Update	Windows update should be set to 'on' and all updates are applied
Back-Ups	Back-ups should be done on a regular basis and stored off-site
Hardware Replacement	It is generally good practice for any business to have a hardware replacement programme. The following link provides advice on periodic IT hardware replacement: https://www.blackbaud.co.uk/files/resources/downloads/WhitePaper_BudgetingForTechnology.pdf

Enquiries

4. Practices with a Practice Management System are advised to discuss this Memorandum with their suppliers to ensure they meet the minimum IT specification. Any general enquiries arising from this Memorandum should be directed to your NHS Board.

Scottish Government Directorate for Population Health
25 October 2017