



SCOTTISH DENTAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE

9 SEPTEMBER 2020

REPORT

The Scottish Dental Practice Committee (SDPC) held a meeting by videoconference on Wednesday 9 September 2020, to discuss the latest Covid-19 developments. This report provides a contemporary record of that meeting, but as this is a fast-moving situation, its content is likely to become rapidly out of date. The BDA provides live updates at <https://www.bda.org/coronavirus>

1. Paul Cushley, Director of Dentistry, NSS – Question and Answer Session

P Cushley (PC) attended the meeting and answered a number of questions posed in advance of the meeting by SDPC members on issues regarding the provision of 'revalidated' PPE to dental practices.

1.1 Where is the evidence of 3M's involvement in verification of the mask material as advised in the INSPEC document?

PC noted that 3M would not extend the product viability, but he said that the INSPEC document superseded the 3M document and that NSS had provided a test certificate.

1.2 View on 3M stating Masks should not be used beyond expiry date

PC stated taking consideration that testing had been rigorous, and the product had been extended for use until 20 March 2021. He said he would be confident to use the masks on himself, family and friends.

1.3 Are the tests instructed by the body storing the masks (DH or other NHS body) exactly the same as for new masks in terms of quality control and functionality?

PC gave 100 percent confirmed that tests had been carried out.

1.4 NSS and the CDO state that the masks have been used since March and in Covid-19 wards. Did clinicians have a choice of mask to use?

PC stated that 1863 masks were being used in the front line across the health service in Scotland and England. He also said that the usage varied across the NHS Boards. PC stated that GDPs had the choice of using masks provided by the NHS or purchasing alternative masks. For those who failed face fitting an alternative mask to 1863 was being offered.

1.5 How many healthcare workers using these masks have tested positive for Covid-19?

PC reported that approximately 700 healthcare workers had tested positive to the virus, although it was unclear if they had caught it in the workplace or socially. He reiterated there were no known clusters related to 1863 mask usage.

1.6 Has NSS contacted the HSE for an opinion on revalidation and recertifications of expired masks? What was their response?

PC said that the HSE had overseen the letter of comfort issued by the CMO and Chief Nursing Officer in March 2020 and had been part of the commissioning process and had been involved from the beginning of Covid-19.

1.7 When will the Alpha Solway masks be available? Will there be sufficient numbers for all dental teams, or will it be a gradual replacement of the 3M 1863?

PC stated it was planned to transfer all NHS staff to the Alpha Solway H Series masks by the end of 2020. He said he could not comment on whether staff would be expected to use supplies of 1863 masks before moving to the new Alpha Solway masks. He also stated that 1863 masks were being used in the front line across the health service in Scotland and England, including staff using AGPs (for example, for intubation). He also said that the usage varied across the NHS Boards.

1.8 Is there a Plan B for the 3M 1863 masks until the Alpha Solway masks become available (e.g. Honeywell)?

PC said under his six week planner there was no plan B but that GDS would be moved over to the Alpha Solway masks by Christmas. He stated that practitioners could purchase their own masks if they did not wish to use the 1863 masks.

1.9 Are other healthcare workers who have been using the 1863 masks using AGPs? If so, which ones?

PC stated that the masks were in use throughout the wider NHS and in Covid-19 wards. DMc stated that they were not doing AGPs in Covid-19 wards.

A number of additional questions were asked by individuals. Members informed PC of incidents where the elastic strap on the 1863 masks had fallen or broken off. PC referred to a reporting procedure whereby GDPs could notify Boards about mask failures. SDPC members were unaware of this system and PC agreed to provide the information. PC also confirmed that quantitative testing was the responsibility of the Boards. PC also confirmed that should a Covid-19 outbreak be identified Covid-19 incident team would be on site immediately.

It was noted that some GDPs had worked in the UDCCs with Public Dental Service staff where 1863 masks had been supplied to practitioner, however they were not in their boxes and had therefore been used in UDCCs on a matter of trust that equipment supplied by the Boards was safe for use.

2. Seasonal Flu Vaccination Programme

It was confirmed that SDPC had agreed with Scottish Government that GDPs could opt in to the programme. It was reported that NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and NHS Grampian would not be involving GDPs in the programme.

3. SDPC New Funding Model Working Group

A working group was set up to address a suitable funding model post Covid-19. J Davidson agreed to be Chair. J Brady, M Gordon-Duff, D McColl, D Morrison and J Weir all agreed to join the group. An initial meeting would be arranged soon.

4. GDC revalidation / Repatriation

SDPC members had been asked to comment on updated proposals for local resolution of low-level problems and these would be forwarded to Scottish Government.

5. Closing Open Courses of Treatment

The Chair reported that the CDO would provide further information at the next meeting with the Scottish Government on 10 September 2020.

6. Scottish Orthodontists Specialist Group

It was confirmed that SOSG was pleased to accept the offer that SDPC would co-opt up to two orthodontists when Scottish Government was in a position to begin discussions about the future funding model in respect of orthodontic treatment.

7. Stirling Office Accommodation

It was noted that all Scottish Committees had been consulted and agreed to the proposal to give up the committee meeting room at the Scotland office in May 2021, with the option of holding one face-to-face meeting per annum.

8. Ongoing and Future Items of Discussion

Remobilisation

DDRB

Key Worker Status

9. Date of next Meeting

It was agreed that an interim meeting would be held by video conference before the end of 2020.

Future meeting dates:

10 February 2021

12 May 2021

15 September 2021 all at 13:30hrs

David McColl

Chair SDPC

September 2020