



Dear Colleague

REMOBILISATION OF NHS DENTAL SERVICES: PHASE 4

Summary

1. This letter advises NHS Boards and Practitioner Services of the arrangements for phase 4 of the remobilisation of NHS dental services.
2. From 1 November we are moving to phase 4 of the NHS Dental Remobilisation Plan. This means that NHS dental contractors will be able to provide the full range of NHS treatments to all patients in need of both urgent and non-urgent care.

26 October 2020

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

Director, Practitioner Services

For information

Chief Executive,
NHS National Services Scotland

Chief Executive,
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Directors of Dentistry

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Urgent Dental Care Centres (UDCCs)

3. Amendment No 148 of the Statement of Dental Remuneration (SDR) brings back the full range of NHS treatments to all patients in need of both urgent and non-urgent care. Section XII(b) 'Occasional Treatment – Urgent Dental Care Centre only' from Amendment No 147 has been superseded.

4. While we anticipate that UDCCs will continue to play a role, we also anticipate that over time this activity will diminish in favour of a more normalised set of activities for the Public Dental Service (PDS).

5. NHS Boards should also be aware that Amendment 148 returns the item of service fee (and NHS patient charge). Patients attending PDS or UDCC, who are not exempt or entitled to a remittance of NHS dental charges, should now be charged for their treatment.

6. Patient signatures are not required at present. Dental practices should continue to go through the verification process to ensure that patients claiming exemptions or remissions are entitled.

Actions for NHS Boards

7. NHS Boards should ensure that:

- they urgently issue the Memorandum to this letter to all dentists and dental bodies corporate on their dental lists;
- they have read and are aware of the arrangements for dental practices in the attached Memorandum.

Availability of PPE

8. We are advising dental practices that they should continue to liaise with their NHS Board about local arrangements for the distribution of PPE. NHS Boards are asked to ensure they maintain the arrangements that were put in place for phases 2, 3 and the reintroduction of AGPs from 17 August. The free provision of PPE is provided on the condition that this should only be used for NHS patients.

Actions for Practitioner Services

9. The Memorandum advises NHS dental contractors of changes to the financial support top-up arrangements. Practitioner Services shall, for each NHS dental contractor, for the period of claims from the November/paid December 2020 to February/paid March 2021 schedules:

- 9.1 using the calculated average gross monthly item of service income (which includes patient charges for fee paying patients) for the assessment period, 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020;

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9.2 calculate 85 per cent of this income of the NHS dental contractor's average monthly gross item of service income at the practice for the assessment period, 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020;

9.3 where the amount at 9.2 is greater than the NHS dental contractor's gross item of service earnings for the month they shall pay the difference between the two figures as a top-up;

10. For the period of claims for the March/paid April 2021 schedule and any subsequent monthly schedule until further notice:

10.1 identify the tier of financial support for which the NHS dental contractor qualifies, using the criteria described in the Memorandum to this PCA;

10.2 using the calculated average gross monthly item of service income for the assessment period, 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020;

10.3 calculate either 40% (reduce tier), 80% (maintain tier) or 85% (raise tier) of the NHS dental contractor's average monthly gross item of service income at the practice for the assessment period, 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, whichever is the highest tier, for which the NHS dental contractor qualifies according to criteria described in the Memorandum to this PCA;

10.4 where the amount at 10.3 is greater than the NHS dental contractor's gross item of service earnings for a month they shall pay the difference between the two figures as a top-up;

11. NHS dental contractors who are in receipt of maternity, paternity and sickness absence allowances shall be excluded from the calculations above during the period they are in receipt of these allowances. Payments of these particular allowances are in lieu, not in addition to NHS financial support measures.

12. Practitioners Services will repeat the process described at paragraph 10 above each month in respect of each NHS dental contractor, and will make payments in accordance with that process each month until further notice.

Yours sincerely,



TOM FERRIS
Chief Dental Officer