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COVID-19 Update No 28

Content of this update

- COVID-19 “levels” and delivery of dental care

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Dear Colleagues,

## COVID-19 “levels” and delivery of dental care

As you are aware there are 5 levels of restrictions imposed by Scottish Government in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are now in the slightly odd position of the Lothians being divided in terms of restrictions with East Lothian in Level 2, Midlothian and Edinburgh City in Level 3 and West Lothian in Level 4. I am writing to clarify what if any impact this has on the delivery of care in dental practice.

As far as routine dental care is concerned, whether it is delivered under the NHS or by private contract there is no impact in terms of delivery of care in your surgery. If your surgery is in West Lothian and your patient happens to live in East Lothian then they may (understandably) be reluctant to travel from a level 2 area into a level 4 one for treatment, but that is their choice. Travel for the receipt of healthcare is permitted under the various restriction levels.

The only area where there needs to be a change in clinical practice relates to aesthetic procedures in areas of level 4 restrictions. In this context procedures like the injection of dermal fillers and the use of BOTOX would fall into the category of “close contact services” that are not “ancillary to medical, health or social care services” and are proscribed in the same way as other beauty and hair treatments, tattooing etc.

With all my best

Angus Walls

Director of Dentistry NHS Lothian