



**SCOTTISH DENTAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE
18 NOVEMBER 2020
REPORT**

The Scottish Dental Practice Committee (SDPC) held an interim meeting by video conference on Wednesday 18 November 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a contemporary record of that meeting, but as this is a fast-moving situation, its content is likely to become rapidly out of date. Access the BDA [live updates](#) here.

1. Remobilisation – Phase 4 Return to Work

It was reported that overall, the return to work was going well, and that fallow time varied in practices from 10-20 minutes. It was also noted that patients were pleased to be able to have a wider range of treatments.

2. PPE / Ventilation

PPE supply varied between NHS Boards with some practices reporting no shortages, and others still experiencing difficulties with the supply of masks, gowns and gloves. It was reported that some practices were using their own supplies to treat NHS patients. There was a discussion about proposed introduction of washable PPE. Concerns were raised about dentists feeling unwell (including low oxygen levels) after wearing masks for more than two hours. It was agreed to find out if investigative studies had been carried out.

It was reported that there was confusion within the profession about practice ventilation requirements, with NHS Grampian asking practitioners for certification before carrying out AGPs. It was agreed there was a need for clear national guidance from Scottish Government (SG). SDPC had already raised these concerns with the CDO who had advised practitioners not to take any immediate action until further guidance was available and suggested that practices should not spend money unnecessarily on ventilation. A letter addressed to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport from the SDPC Chair highlighting ventilation concerns would be issued shortly.

There was brief discussion about a [joint letter to wholly private practices](#) from Prof. J Leitch and the CDO following the introduction of the five [protection levels](#) in Scotland from 2 November. Members were surprised that no advance notification had been provided about its publication and that the CDO had previously indicated he had no jurisdiction over the private sector of dentistry.

3. Occupational Health Services

Concerns were noted that many OHS were busy dealing with general Covid-19 issues such as Track and Trace, resulting in a reduced or no service being available for dental teams. It was proposed that the BDA Secretariat would pursue a joint piece of work with SG to produce advice for the profession on mental health support services.

4. Monitoring Activity

It was reported that a tripartite meeting between BDA Scotland, SG and Practitioner Services Division (PSD) would be held on 19 November 2020 to discuss how to monitor activity measurement levels. SDPC considered that all treatment items should be counted so that full activity was measured. Members discussed the importance of activity being recorded under the 8000 codes in SDR 148, the bulk of which were largely unrecognised previously and which had been an increasing part of general dental practice.

It was considered that it was important to be able to record the clinical time taken for individual treatments. Members agreed this was an opportunity to provide a much greater insight into the accurate delivery of NHS dentistry.

5. Covid-19 Financial Support Payments

It was noted that since the return to full treatments and collection of patient charges, it would take a few more weeks for SG to assess how much income was being generated. It was noted that PCA(D)(2020)13 had stated that GPs would automatically be entitled to an increased top-up payment of 85 percent of their NHS gross item of service income until the end of February. From March, the level of continued NHS support will be determined by both activity and patient registration levels. BDA Scotland had argued for 100 per cent and it was suggested that the 85 per cent figure may rise going forward.

6. SDPC New Funding Model Working Group

The SDPC Working Group had met twice and produced a discussion paper which was reviewed by members. It was considered that additional funding was unlikely to be provided from SG and that the proposal to charge for a dental examination would not be well received by the current SNP administration. It was also noted that the CDO had previously reiterated that it was essential that whatever options were put forward by the Working Group must not disadvantage any specific group within the population.

7. Ongoing and Future Items of Discussion

Associate Contracts

Vaccinations

Scottish Government Communications

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 10 February 2021 at 13:30hrs by video conference.

David McColl
Chair SDPC
November 2020