

## FUNDING SUPPORT FOR VENTILATION EQUIPMENT IN DENTAL PRACTICES

### Q & A

Q1 - What are the requirements / standards for ventilation in dental settings?

A - As explained in the SDCEP Mitigation of Aerosol Generating Procedures in Dentistry review (3): "UK building regulations recommend whole building ventilation to be 10 l/s/person<sup>5</sup> and current healthcare guidance for new buildings and major refurbishments specifies that a treatment room should have at least 10 air changes per hour (ACH). This is also stipulated for a dental treatment room in Scottish Health Planning Note 36 (Part 2 NHS Dental Services in Scotland).<sup>8</sup> Therefore, all dental care providers are strongly encouraged to investigate dental surgery ventilation and the modifications that may be necessary to meet the requirements of current UK healthcare guidance and legislation. A revised version of HTM 03-01 is expected to be published in 2021. However, this is unlikely to impose additional specific requirements for primary dental care settings (Ventilation for dentistry SDCEP April 2021)

Q2 - What are Air Changes per Hour?

A - Air changes per hour (ACPH) is a measurement of air volume that is added to (or removed from) a room divided by the total volume of the room. Put simply, it measures how many times the air in the room is replaced. Higher ACPH values mean better ventilation. The formula is as follows:

$$ACPH = Q / Vol$$

Whereby:

- $Q$  = Volumetric flow rate of air in cubic metres per hour ( $m^3/h$ )
- $Vol$  = Space volume  $L \times W \times H$  in cubic metres ( $m^3$ )

Q3 - Are the Health Board recommending any equipment or specialist companies?

A - No the Health Board cannot recommend any equipment or companies

Q4 - Would a practice need an external contractor to support a practice's statement for ACH achieved with equipment installed?

A - The PCA states that It is the responsibility of the dental practice to ensure that the equipment meets the required specifications and they will be required to confirm this on the claim form. If a practice can demonstrate that the equipment meets the ventilation criteria with the equipment performance data, they can self certify.

Q5 What are my obligations following reimbursement of ventilation equipment

A All the contractors within the practice will continue to provide general dental services until 1 April 2024 and the ventilation equipment for which an allowance is claimed meets the required standard.

Q What is the required standard?

A – see Q1

Q6 If I do not meet the obligations?

The PCA states – “Where an authorised representative receives an allowance under this Part, but the practice does not continue to meet the conditions of entitlement at paragraph 13, the Health Board must require the authorised representative to pay back one thirty-sixth of that allowance for every month of the three year period during which the conditions are not met”

Q7 Does the funding include the installation of the equipment

A Yes as long as there are receipts from a professional company

Q8 Is there financial help if a practice wishes to reconfigure a treatment room to maximise ACH eg lower a ceiling to reduce volume

A The funding is being made available for installation of equipment only

Q9 - I am unable to install fixed ventilation to achieve the required criteria within my practice how do I proceed?

A - Please make contact with the Health Board prior to purchasing any equipment other than fixed ventilation, if you intent to submit a claim for this equipment.

Q10 I have already installed air scrubbers, can I claim for these equipment units?

A Practices should have a discussion with their NHS Board as to their eligibility to have these units reimbursed

Q11 Do I need a specialist ventilation company to install my equipment?

A Not necessarily. It is acceptable if you can demonstrate that the equipment installed eg window fan, has sufficient capacity to achieve 10 ACH for that room and thus meet the required standard.

Q12 I have existing ventilation equipment in place but I do not have any data on its performance.

A Consider installing new equipment that can be calibrated or consult a specialist who could possibly provide a figure for the ACH for that room

Q13 - Does installing extraction equipment include air cleaning or conditioning?

A - No

Q14 - I am unable to install fixed ventilation within my practice how do I proceed?

A - Please make contact with the Health Board prior to purchasing any equipment other than fixed ventilation, if you intent to submit a claim for this equipment.