

COVID-19

Lee Savarrio - Chief of Dentistry Update (12-5-2020)

I hope you all had a restful weekend. As I said last week my intention is only to provide a couple of updates each week, when there is relevant information which I think you should be aware of.

As we had anticipated we are now seeing an increasing number of patients for treatment and have now also treated a number of Covid patients. The systems and process for this is working well.

Moving forward the next focus for us is to look at recovery plans and when and how we can move to the next phase to provide patient treatments. This will give consideration of what the next phase of patient treatment might be, when this might happen and how.

A couple of other highlights for today:

- SDCEP has updated the ***Drugs for Management of Dental Problems During COVID-19 Pandemic*** supplement, which was first published on 8 April 2020. The drugs supplement is based on SDCEP's *Drug Prescribing for Dentistry* guidance and lists the drug regimens that dentists are most likely to advise or prescribe for their patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. The updated version:
 - provides more detailed advice on contraindications and cautions for analgesics and antibiotics in two new appendices
 - clarifies the definition of optimal analgesia
 - includes volumes for oral preparations of analgesic doses for children
 - emphasises that antibiotics are not indicated in the absence of swelling or other signs of infection

The updated drugs supplement is now available on the [SDCEP COVID-19 webpage](#).

Further local information on safe prescribing during covid-19 for dentists will follow in further updates.

- It has been highlighted that where you have transferred your practice phone to a mobile for the purposes of triaging patients, if you are on another call it just rings out. If at all possible could you please put a message on the answer service of the mobile phone indicating that you are triaging patients and if the number is ringing out patients you should call back.
- Scottish Government has just launched a newly opened “National Wellbeing Hub” for the health and social care workforce, which will act as a ‘front door’ to the wide range of support and wellbeing resources available in Scotland. It is a resource for the whole workforce, including unpaid carers, volunteers deployed within health and social care services, and their families. It can be accessed at <https://www.promis.scot/>
- I hope the latest version of the GDS Triage Form is working for you. The additional information it provides ensure a quicker and more efficient journey for your patients. For ease I have attached a further copy of the form. Please use this Word document form that is suitable for you to fill out electronically rather than the pdf document circulated recently.

Stay Safe and Look After One Another

- As our medical colleagues also start their recovery plans, you may be contacted by patients who require dental assessment and treatment prior to medical or surgical procedures. If so as you are unable to evidence them being fit for treatment, please refer to the PDS Special Care Hub with as much clinical information including radiographs.
- I appreciate at this time it is difficult to celebrate anything. However, today Tuesday 12 May 2020, is International Nurses Day and this year more than most I think this should be acknowledged. To all our nursing and associated colleagues within the Oral Health Directorate and indeed in the wider NHS family we salute you.



To mark the occasion in Glasgow Dental Hospital, Dental Nurses, Hygienists, HCSW's and Dental Nursing Students were presented with a scroll to thank them for their continued hard work in the delivery of the dental service at Glasgow Dental Hospital at this time.



For our GDS colleagues, please continue to monitor your practice NHS mail account daily. We are also issuing all communications to individual NHS.net accounts via the LDC.

Stay Safe
Lee Savarrio, Chief of Dentistry

Stay Safe and Look After One Another