

COVID-19

Lee Savarrio - Chief of Dentistry Update (27-5-2020)

I appreciate the last few months have been very difficult for everyone involved in providing dental services and the next few months look as though they are going to be equally challenging.

You will now have had a chance to review the letter issued by the Chief Dental Officer on 20 May 2020 detailing the 3 phase approach to Remobilisation of NHS (General) Dental Services in Scotland together with the SDCEP guidance issued on 25 May 2020 on Dental Practice Reopening following COVID 19 shutdown, including the checklist which is part of the Practice Recovery Toolkit. In further communication from the CDO it has been made clear this practice recovery should also be mirrored by a restart plan in PDS and HDS that should also take into account the toolkit in the ongoing recovery of their respective services.

As I mentioned in my last update, NHS GG&C have been preparing for phase 1 (increasing the capacity of the urgent dental care centres). Attached is the updated GDS triage form which includes the SDCEP red/amber/green category of referral and details of our expanded list of treatment options for acute and essential care.

Throughout phase 1 and 2 the urgent dental care centres will continue to see patients on referral for all treatments involving AGPs. I appreciate this is a rapidly changing situation and that by phase 2, practices will be planning to re-open for face to face consultations for patients. This may well be within a short timeframe. Our ability to provide this extended clinical offer in NHSGGC and, on moving into phase 2, to meet the demand for AGPs is very much predicated on ongoing and sustained GDS support within our urgent dental care centres. We will therefore be looking to increase the cohort of GDPs in each of these centres and over the next few days, be making contact with GDPs to arrange induction and orientation. As has been mentioned in phase 2a non-AGP urgent dental care will be provided in general dental practices. This means that our UDCC's will focus mainly on AGP's for GDS patients' urgent care needs. We have insufficient PDS and HDS staff to operate this service without relying upon GDS dentists continuing to provide care for their patients in the UDCC's. This is to allow the HDs and PDS teams to resume the care for their own patients as these services are also restarted. We have started discussions with the Local Dental Committee on how this might be best organised to ensure fair and equitable contribution from each practice to the delivery of this care. This may require buddying of practices. The initial 2a reopening of general dental services will involve enough PPE centrally provided for 1 dentist, a dental nurse and a receptionist for 10 patients. Further dentists working at a GDS site will be on Board approval and will be dependent on adequate contribution to the UDCC's.

From a GDP perspective I understand that it may be frustrating if you are allocated to an urgent dental care centre and you feel that you are not fully utilised treating patients all the time. As per the nature of unscheduled care it is difficult to determine the throughput in each of these sites. In instances where you are not required for treatment any more, your support with triaging and vetting would be very much appreciated.

CDO Phase 1

Can I remind you that the advice to practices holding a list number with NHS GG&C that have combined practice inspections carried out is to follow the Chief Dental Officer guidance and remain closed during phase 1 other than for telephone triage. Wholly private practices should take advice from Healthcare Improvement Scotland.

CDO Phase 2a

Moving towards phase 2, to provide the Board with reassurance that all measures detailed in the checklist part of the Practice Recovery Toolkit have been addressed, we will be issuing a document via the generic practice nhs email addresses which requires to be completed, signed and returned before the practice can re-open. This is to satisfy the governance requirements of the Board that patient and staff safety can be assured.

A couple of other highlights for today:

- You may have already seen that NHSGGC and the University of Glasgow are supporting the University of Oxford's COVID-19 vaccine trials in health and care staff. Health and care staff living in Greater Glasgow and Clyde are invited to take part in the trial if they are between 18-55 years old, healthy and have not been infected with COVID-19. They are encouraging frontline staff who have worked in COVID-19 clinical areas so dentists and dental nurses working in emergency care are encouraged to apply.

250 people will initially be recruited, with participants randomised to receive one or two doses of either the *ChAdOx1 nCoV-19* vaccine or a licensed meningitis vaccine (MenACWY) that will be used as a 'control' for comparison. Participants will be involved in the trial for the next 12 months and will be supported by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and University of Glasgow staff throughout its duration.

For more information and to register your interest, please visit the University of Oxford's website: <https://www.covid19vaccinetrial.co.uk/participate-glasgow>

- Most of the GDP's that we requested access to the Emergency Care Summary should now have an account created for you. Over the next couple of days you will receive an email to your NHS Mail Address to notify you of your username, the web address for accessing ECS and the user guide.
- Where you have an urgent paediatric referral, please make sure to highlight as "Red" (to be seen within an hour), Amber (to be seen within 24 hrs) or Green (to be seen within 7 days) on the SDCEP classification part of the referral form and send in via PDS Special Care Hub. We had previously asked where any escalation of a child's care was required (especially for General Anaesthetic) or for urgent advice to email or phone a specific person but please now revert to telephoning our PDS Special Care Hub for Amber or Green or use the Red pathway for Emergencies.

Stay Safe
Lee Savarrio, Chief of Dentistry