

## COVID-19

## Lee Savarrio - Chief of Dentistry Update (8-5-2020)

Well we have come to the end of another busy week. Our focus moving forward is now directed towards a recovery plan for all parts of our service and how we can expand the treatment options we currently provide to the population of NHSGGC. This will require a huge concerted effort from all of us, looking at new ways of working. However, I am confident given our joint approach so far this will be achievable.

A couple of other highlights for today:

- It would appear that not all referrers are using the new GDS Triage form (attached). It may appear that there is little difference between this and the original form; however, the additional fields which have been added are a valuable source of information as part of the vetting process. I would therefore urge you to check that you are using the most up to date version and since we are looking to appoint patients within 24 hours the time of receiving the referral into your practice would be a great help to us to streamline our process as much as is possible. Please also remember the quickest way to get a patient seen is by clearly filled referral form and this is replacing SCI Gateway as a referral path for all patients currently whether they be suspicion of cancer, secondary care referral or referral for urgent dental care. True acute emergency cases of swelling, uncontrolled bleeding or dental trauma are the only exception to be sent via our alternative route as per our referral guidance.
- We are still experiencing a difficulty in deciphering the hand writing on some of the referral forms. I appreciate you are having to complete these under difficult circumstances; however the illegibility of some of these is resulting in a delay in patients being treated so careful completion would be really appreciated.
- We have now received confirmation from NHS24 that they will not be triaging patients on Monday 25 May 2020. So we will follow the same process as for the last public holidays.
- As I have said before there is no stopping our Teams.



Michelle O'Shaughnessy, Oral Health Educator is creating dental domino games for staff and residents to use within the care home setting.

Dental Dominoes is a great game for all residents in the care homes as it is like regular dominoes but oral health related. All same rules apply and as well as having fun they can learn a little bit extra about oral health.



Face fit testing at Pollok

A visit by Arwel Williams, Director Regional Services to the labs staff at GDH who are making visors for our services. They are currently able to manufacture up to 200 a day and our thanks go to them for their efforts.



➤ We have come across a number of frequently asked questions as part of our induction for the GDPs who are supporting the PDS Hubs. I thought it may be helpful to share these with you.

- **Why can we not carry out these clinical procedures at our own practices?**

There are several factors which have influenced this decision. Initially there was a need to prioritise social distancing at a population level and hence the rationale for setting up the PDS Hubs and limiting the numbers of patients attending centres and numbers of staff travelling to treat them. Also this has allowed us to pool our PPE resources, whereas individual practices may have run out and found difficulty in purchasing more. As we move past the peak of the virus, the clinical offer will change in line with the Public Health guidance on the relaxation of lockdown measures.

From a Public Health perspective it is very much related to reliable governance, communication, standardisation and the ability to track & trace patients through the system. This is more effectively and efficiently delivered through fewer, better connected sites than dispersed over a wide area where we cannot ensure the necessary parameters. The data trials for this are important, from epidemiological and operational perspectives to evaluate and monitor our response and to know when and how to amend our response. It is also important for us to be able to support with contact tracing if this is required, which we could not do from GDP sites at present.

- **When will general dental practices re open?**

The Chief Dental Officer is currently working on recovery plans with the Directors of Dentistry, the BDA and Scottish Government, with advice also being sought from SDCEP and Health Boards as well as aiming, where possible, to have a four nations approach with the other UK CDO's and indeed CDO's from further afield. As soon as details are released this will be disseminated to all dentists in the Board.

- **When will we be face fit tested?**

FFP3 masks are only required for use during AGPs and at present only non-AGP treatment is being carried out at the PDS Hubs. At the moment there are a sufficient number of dentists that have passed their face fit testing. Currently there is no requirement to test further dentists but this may change in time as we move to increasing the breadth of treatments we can offer.

- **How will GP17 claims be made for treatment carried out? Are Key workers to receive free dental care?**

PDS treatment is paid for by patients in a similar way to GDS treatment. Key workers would normally pay for their NHS treatment, unless they fall under an exempt category. The PDS nurse that you work alongside will assist you in completing the patient record and associated GP17, which will be claimed on a generic list number.

- **How many sessions will I need to do per week?**

We are anticipating an increased number of patients to attend the PDS sites over time. In addition, there is consideration being given nationally to widening access to "semi-urgent", dental care e.g. sharp cusp smoothing, treatment of caries, re-cementing a crown. So whilst you may only be asked for 1 session per week initially, it is expected your sessional commitment will need to increase with time.

**Although this is not a Board public holiday I know a number of you had planned to take today off to commemorate / celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. I hope your reconfigured plans work out well and you get a chance to reflect as well as celebrate. Now more than ever "We'll Meet Again" resonates with us all.**

***Whatever you are doing, have a good weekend,***

***Stay Safe***  
***Lee Savarrio, Chief of Dentistry***