

## Care package for Urgent Dental Care Centres (UDCC) in Scotland - NHS GGC

Following the COVID-19 national lockdown on 23<sup>rd</sup> March and the closure of primary care GDS, NHS GG&C has operated UDCC's to provide emergency and urgent dental care in partnership with GDPs. The overriding principle was to support the public health need for population social distancing and limiting non-essential travel to help prevent spread of COVID19. As such, the care provided to date has been restricted to limited emergency and urgent dental procedures and the avoidance (where possible) of AGPs.

As a consequence of the progress made in tackling COVID-19, this position has been reviewed. Although restrictions remain in place and dental practices are advised to remain closed, the provision for unscheduled dental care for patients may now widen in scope. Following the expansion of the capacity within the UDCCs, NHS GGC will be offering red, amber and green pathways of urgent dental care set down in the SDCEP guidance.

As per the CDO's letter all referrals are to include the SDCEP category of referral red/amber/green and a diagnosis (or differential diagnosis). Please follow the link below –

<http://www.sdcep.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/SDCEP-Patient-Management-during-Phase-2a-and-2b-250520.pdf>

The key areas of the new arrangements during phase 1 of the CDO's remobilisation plan are as follows;

- Provide relief of pain and infection, with the aim of limiting the deterioration in a patient's oral health and any requirement to return for further treatment.
- Provide single definitive episodes of care, where possible.
- AGPs should be considered appropriate where there is a significant likelihood of considerable benefit to the patient with the single intervention.

Capacity to provide a wider range of treatments will be limited by the need to ensure care provision is delivered with appropriate PPE in an environment safe for patients and dental teams. Rules relating to social distancing requirements in clinics and waiting areas will still apply. The range of treatments provided will be regularly reviewed.

The range of available treatments has been widened in scope and has been informed by the SDR and the section on Occasional Treatment. The following section for Red, Amber and Green patients and the care offered is illustrative, but not exhaustive.

At this stage in the remobilisation of dental services, the provision of AGP's in GDS is still prohibited. Where care of a patient cannot be managed without an AGP, please refer the patient in to the UDCC.

Emergency Care – Provide contact with a clinician within 60 minutes and subsequent treatment within a timescale that is appropriate to the severity of the condition.

<b>Emergency:</b>	<b>Care offered</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trauma including facial/oral laceration and/or dentoalveolar injuries (e.g. avulsion of a permanent tooth)</li> <li>• Oro-facial swelling that is significant and worsening</li> <li>• Post-extraction bleeding that the patient is not able to control with local measures</li> <li>• Dental conditions that have resulted in acute systemic illness or raised temperature as a result of dental infection</li> <li>• Severe trismus</li> <li>• Oro-dental conditions that are likely to exacerbate systemic medical conditions (e.g. diabetes)</li> </ul>	<p>Extraction  Pulpotomy/ pulpectomy*  Incision and drainage  Splinting  Management of bleeding</p>

\*of any teeth in the arch that are restorable, able to be isolated and strategically significant

Urgent Care - Provide self-help advice and treat patient within 24 hours.

<b>Urgent:</b>	<b>Care offered</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dental and soft-tissue infections without a systemic effect</li> <li>• Severe dental and facial pain: that is, pain that cannot be controlled by the patient following self-help advice</li> <li>• Fractured teeth or tooth with pulpal exposure</li> </ul>	<p>Extraction and provision of denture, if appropriate  Pulpotomy/ pulpectomy*  Incision and drainage    Dressing of fractured teeth</p>

\*of any teeth in the arch that are restorable, able to be isolated and strategically significant

Routine Care - Mild or moderate pain: that is, pain not associated with an Urgent Care condition and that responds to pain-relief measures. Provide self-help advice. Provide access to an appropriate service within 7 days if required.

Routine:	Care offered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minor dental trauma</li> <li>• Loose or displaced crowns, bridges or veneers</li> <li>• Fractured or loose-fitting dentures and other appliances</li> <li>• Fractured posts</li> <li>• Fractured, loose or displaced fillings causing sensitivity</li> <li>• Bleeding gums</li> </ul>	<p>Extraction            Splinting            Dressing of deciduous and permanent teeth*            Stoning/ smoothing tooth            Recementing crowns/ inlays/ bridges            Denture repairs, additions and adjustments            Orthodontic appliance repairs</p>

\*When hand excavation is satisfactory for caries removal, a dressing can be placed. If an AGP cannot be avoided, a permanent restoration should be placed where possible.