

COVID-19

Lee Savarrio - Chief of Dentistry Update (15-7-2020)

Last week's announcement by the First Minister and the letter issued by the Chief Dental Officer confirmed that we have moved into Phase 3 of the CDO Routemap as of 13 July 2020.

You will now also have received PCA(D)(2020)10 - Remobilisation of NHS Dental Services – Phase 3. I was pleased to note within the circular, the commitment to maintaining financial support for NHS dental services during Phase 3, with some additional help for practices through the General Dental Practice Allowance.

I intend to issue a further Webropol survey to all practices to allow us to gather some additional information around opening second surgeries, routine treatments and number of patients being seen. The survey will also advise on the sign off process for opening of additional surgeries. We do however still reserve the right to visit a practice if we deem it is required.

I thought it may be helpful to summarise at a glance what the Phase 3 new arrangements mean for practices within NHSGG&C:

- You can resume “routine” NHS care for patients without the use of AGPs. This means treatments previously unable to be provided outwith the SDCEP Emergency Dental Care red, amber and green pathways can be made available to patients as per the new SDR 145.
- The number of patients you can see is now only limited by the need to maintain physical distancing within communal areas and your availability of PPE supplies.
- If you intend to open more than one surgery you can do so following sign off from the Health Board. The ability to do this will be included in the Webropol survey.
- If your practice is based within a Health Centre and you intend opening additional surgeries, you must ensure that you have contacted the building administrator and shared your plans with them, from the point of view of physical distancing in addition to alerting us via the survey.
- AGPs will continue to be provided as part of emergency NHS care on referral to the UDCCs.
- As per previous Central Legal Office guidance you may continue to undertake AGPs for private care. You will be required to indicate this on the Webropol survey. You must also ensure that you have robust processes in place for risk assessment and mitigation for staff and patients.
- UDCCs are still available to see and treat emergency patients until 31 July 2020 and for AGPs until directed otherwise by the Scottish Government.
- I would like to highlight there are new items of service available under Amendment No. 145 of the SDR.
- Under Amendment No. 145, you are now able to close off some courses of treatment.

As part of the remobilisation plans for our managed services we are also currently working on our revised clinical offer for the Public Dental Service (PDS)(formerly the community dental service) and Hospital Dental Service (HDS). These are being discussed with LDC colleagues prior to being issued in due course. For referrals to the PDS and HDS you are still able to submit a SCI gateway routine referral, however these will be vetted and prioritised and where appropriate, depending on the future clinical offer available, either added to the current waiting list or returned to the referrer. In general PDS referrals are for primary care dentistry that is not able to be provided by general dental services for whatever reason and HDS is for patients requiring consultant or specialist level dental care.

Stay Safe and Look After One Another

- I have been asked to cascade the following information from NHS National Services Scotland in relation to PPE.

“This information has been given by Scottish Government and it relates to the specific questions around the supply of PPE to patients for usage in health care settings. The supply of PPE for Primary Care Contractor groups including dental practices is not intended to be used to supply the public. The term face coverings was used deliberately and not PPE.

The Type IIR masks provided by National Procurement are PPE, designed to be used by healthcare workers for their protection. (Face coverings is a more generic term used to include all and any covering of the face and does not have any specific technical specifications attached to the term.)

Face coverings in General Practice

*As you will be aware face coverings became mandatory in shops from 10th July. The Scottish Government’s advice can be found here <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/pages/face-coverings>. Wearing a face mask is **not mandatory** in GP practices but patients are strongly advised to wear face coverings when attending for appointments as it is not always possible to maintain a 2 metre distance from other people.*

By face coverings we do not mean a surgical or other medical grade mask but a covering of the mouth and nose that is made of cloth or other textiles and through which you can breathe, for example a scarf or religious head covering that covers the mouth and nose. As such practices do not need to provide surgical or other medical grade masks from their own PPE stocks to patients who present with cloth or textile face coverings. Surgical masks also do not need to be provided to patients who present without a face covering.

Where patients are being given face-to-face appointments in advance they should be told by the practice about the need to wear a face covering when they attend. Patients should not be refused treatment if they present without a face covering.

People who are exempt from wearing face coverings

People are not required to carry proof that they are exempt for medical reasons. They do not need exemption letters or certificate and their word should be accepted by relevant organisations. As such practices do not need to provide any proof of exemption for their patients.”

- In order to improve our flexibility for provision of AGPs in our UDCCs we are looking to expand Face Fit Testing for dental nurses from general dental practices that could work alongside the nominated AGP dentist and we will be in contact with you soon on how this will be facilitated.
- I also thought I would share a link to updated PHS/HPS guidance which was published last week, which should be of interest to you.

[Infection Prevention and Control for General Dental Practice during the period of COVID-19](#)

[COVID-19- guidance for primary care](#)

Kind regards,
Lee Savarrio, Chief of Dentistry

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