

COVID-19

Lee Savarrio - Chief of Dentistry Update (30-7-2020)

You may have heard the announcement by the First Minister today which was confirmed by the Chief Dental Officer that practices can resume AGPs for NHS urgent dental treatment effective from 17 August 2020.

As a consequence of this announcement we will be making contact with all practices over the next few days to establish if they are in a position to opt into providing urgent NHS AGPs.

The CDO letter (attached) makes it clear that opting not to undertake AGPs for NHS treatments in practice means that the nominated person within a practice will still be required to support the UDCCs in order for you to continue to refer into our PDS UDCCs. This welcome move toward allowing GDS practices to act as their own mini UDCCs will free up resource for our Hospital Dental Services and Public Dental Services to be able to return to employing their skills where they are best employed. We will shortly be communicating revised clinical offers for referral into HDS and PDS in light of the reduced capacity to take new referrals into both services as a consequence of continued Covid restrictions, as well as the backlog of existing patients either awaiting assessment or currently under care of these teams.

We have not yet received any supplies of FFP3 masks but will contact you in due course to confirm the arrangements for distribution.

We had already issued a link to all practices to allow you to book a place for any registered member of your dental team, on a face fit testing session next week. As we indicated the places were allocated on a first come first served basis and all the slots for next week have been taken. Due to updated information from the CDO regards availability of PPE and numbers of AGPs to be delivered, for the next sessions we are arranging, only 1 dentist and 1 dental nurse per practice will be able to be face fit tested in the first instance to allow all practices the opportunity to deliver urgent AGPs.

As you know we issued a Webropol survey on the Remobilisation of Dental Services – Phase 3 to all practices. The purpose of this was to gather some additional information around opening second surgeries, routine treatments and number of patients being seen. Amongst other things this information will determine the additional PPE we need to request from NSS. To date around 50% of practices have responded to the survey. **Can I urge you to complete and submit the survey as a matter of urgency. As you can imagine the distribution of this new additional supply of PPE for GDS is a logistical test for our colleagues in NSS as well as ourselves here in the Board and your help by filling out the survey would be greatly appreciated.**

- Attached, for your information is new Occupational Risk Assessment Guidance which has recently been published and has been put in place nationally to support those returning to work. I thought this may be of assistance to you within practice, where you have staff returning to work some of whom following a long period of absence.

- There are lots of very useful websites and information available for staff in relation to Health and Wellbeing during this time. Some weeks ago we advised that Scottish Government had launched a newly opened “National Wellbeing Hub” for the health and social care workforce, which would 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 thought it may be beneficial to reissue these details to you.

Kind regards,
Lee Savarrio, Chief of Dentistry