

COVID-19

Lee Savarrio - Chief of Dentistry Update (07-08-2020)

Here in the Board we are currently working towards Phase 3b of the CDO's Roadmap (AGPs for NHS patients in dental practices) while PDS and HDS colleagues continue to provide care for urgent referrals.

In order to ensure practices are able to deliver AGPs, there are certain objectives we require to finalise, namely;

- Face fit testing for the dental team
- Provision and delivery of enhanced PPE for AGPs in practice
- Board approval to ensure governance for delivery of NHS AGPs in practice

I will provide an update on the current progress on these below.

Face Fit Testing for NHS AGPs in Dental Practice

Many thanks to all in GDS who have responded so quickly to our offer to face fit test GDS teams to enable NHS AGPs to be undertaken for urgent care. We've had a substantial and quick response but to make sure that there is at least one dentist and nurse per practice face fitted, we need to limit the current offer to allow all practices that want to provide AGPs the ability to do so. We will continue to make testing slots available thereafter to remaining team members as well as those who have failed the testing on the current mask.

This process seems to be working well and 580 slots for fit testing have already been filled.

PPE Allocation

SG are referring to the current supply of PPE as simple PPE to differentiate between what has been delivered to date and future supplies, which will include PPE for the delivery of AGPs (enhanced PPE).

Simple PPE

Many thanks to those that have completed the most recent Webropol survey: **Phase 3 Remobilisation**, to inform us if you plan to open more than 1 surgery. Following receipt of this survey a further appropriate supply of simple PPE will then be delivered to your practice address within two weeks.

Failure to return the Webropol may result in delayed delivery of PPE

If you reject a scheduled delivery of PPE please note it is unlikely that you will receive a delivery for three weeks when further supplies of PPE are anticipated.

We would urge you to accept all items that are being delivered. There is limited capacity to store items and rejection of items is causing disruption and delays to delivery plans.

If you urgently require PPE and have completed the Webropol please e-mail Oral.Health3@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Enhanced PPE

We are collaborating with NSS colleagues to work out the allocation and delivery of enhanced PPE for provision of AGPs ahead of the anticipated 17 August start date. We will provide you with further details as we become clearer about what this will look like.

Board Approval to ensure Governance for delivery of NHS AGPs

As before, we are currently working on a process to allow the Board to sign off on the delivery of AGPs in practice. We are attempting to gain a consistent approach across all Boards and this will be in keeping with published guidance. This will be issued to practices as soon as possible to allow for return, review and response in time for the anticipated start date.

Other Matters:

Current UDCC Activity

We continue to have large numbers of referrals into our UDCCs but I am pleased to advise that the majority of these are for AGPs as per CDO guidance. Thanks again to dental practices that are now providing their own non-AGP urgent dental care.

Referrals to oral surgery continue and are accepted where it is reasonable to expect that an AGP would be required for removal of the tooth. However it should be noted this generally does not include fully erupted teeth or simple medical history problems. We will accept attempted extractions that have roots retained and are dressed for patient comfort. There are currently patients waiting for oral surgery appointments when services restart and the UDCC referral route should not be seen as a way to bypass this. Urgent only care is accepted and therefore examples such as recurrent pericoronitis for extraction will likely only be accepted via the UDCC pathway by exception.

Please also note that referrals for urgent care should still be made via the UDCC referral pathway and not via SCI Gateway to expedite swift triage and management for patients.

Ventilation Document

You may be aware of the recently published technical review document, which maps out the direction of future guidance for dental premises. *Please see document attached.*

Advice is that this document is not guidance and indeed the preface states;

“Please note that for absolute clarity that the fallow time remains for the moment 1 hour – the SBAR on ventilation is a technical review and will inform future policy regarding reducing fallow time.”

Our managed services in PDS and HDS are currently engaged in review of ventilation at dental sites and in the meantime fallow times may be extended beyond the hour guidance for extra confidence for staff and patients as we await the findings of this internal review.

Practice Nominees

You may not be surprised to hear that our difficult day for engaging GDS dentists in our UDCCs is a Friday. Unfortunately this is one of our busiest days and as such we would be grateful if those that would or could work a Friday in particular could contact us for allocation appropriately. A simple email to the GDS Admin Team GDSAdmin@ggc.scot.nhs.uk would be all that would be required.

Contact Tracing in Dental Settings

We have had some inquiries regarding the situation whereby dental team members are approached via contact tracing as having been in contact with someone who may have been exposed to a positive Covid-19 individual. PHE Guidance for exposed health and social care workers and patients/residents states;

“The general principles for staff are:

- *Staff wearing appropriate PPE during exposure to COVID-19 cases, where there has been no breach in that PPE, should have no significant exposure risk so should not be classified as contacts.*
- *Staff who have **not** been wearing appropriate PPE during exposures to COVID-19 case, who meet the contact definitions described above, should be excluded from work and **self-isolate** in line with advice for general members of the public.*
- *Symptomatic staff must not report for duty, should self-isolate **and arrange to be tested**.*

Any decision to deviate from this would be for local decision based on their risk assessment. In settings where national guidance is not available, Health Protection Teams, or if appropriate Infection Prevention Control Teams, should undertake risk assessments and convene incident management teams as needed. This may result in the recommendation of further measures, such as self-isolation and wider testing outside the scope of this guidance”

Further information can be found in these documents;

<https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-contact-tracing-health-protection-team-guidance/>

<https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-contact-tracing-in-complex-settings-health-protection-team-guidance/>

If in any doubt the Health Protection Team should be available for advice.

Stay Safe and Look After One Another

General Manager Oral Health Directorate

I am delighted to announce that my colleague Lisa Johnston has been successful after a competitive interview process in securing the post of General Manager of the Oral Health Directorate. Many will be familiar with Lisa Johnston as the interim GM replacing Frances McLinden. I would like to formally welcome Lisa to this role and thank her for her time as Clinical Services Manager of Primary Care Oral Health Services and then as interim GM. I would also like to thank Lisa personally for her time as interim GM for her leadership and her support throughout the pandemic in turbulent times for our services.

Final Note

A request from colleagues regarding antimicrobial prescribing. Some of you may recall a multi-organisation press release late last year to encourage dental professionals to participate in a survey of knowledge and attitudes in relation to prescribing of antimicrobials.

At the time, the survey was due to close at the end of May 2020, however this has now been extended until at least 31 August 2020, so has about a month to run. Recently a reminder piece;

(fgdp.org.uk/news/reminder-dentists-urged-support-national-survey-antibiotic-prescribing-free-cpd),

has been written to encourage further participation.

There is one hour of free verifiable CPD attached to taking the survey.

The survey is available at

<https://qmul.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/antimicrobial-knowledge-and-attitude-survey>

Wishing all our dental team members in Glasgow and Clyde a good weekend.

*Kind regards,
Lee Savarrio, Chief of Dentistry*