

COVID-19

Lee Savarrio - Chief of Dentistry Update (12-10-2020)

It has been long awaited, but as per the announcement by the Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing in Parliament today and the attached letter from the Chief Dental Officer, we are moving to a new phase of the remobilisation plan on 1 November 2020. Routine care involving AGPs can be provided from this date in GDS and further information will be disseminated as soon as it becomes available, it is anticipated that this will include:

- A dental annex to the UK IPC Guidance which will reflect the SDCEP review recommendations
- A Standard Operating Procedure for practices to use should they wish
- A PCA with more comprehensive information including details of financial support
- An increase in the quantity of PPE to practices

Although acknowledging this is not business as usual, but by making available a full range of treatments for NHS patients, this enables dentists and dental teams to provide a wider range of NHS care for your patients, prioritised by clinical judgement and in line with wider public health protection measures.

➤ **SDR 147**

In the meantime we are continuing to have some queries about what is currently allowable under Phase 3b under NHS regulations. At the present time, non-AGP routine care can be provided as per SDR 147. AGPs should be restricted to the provision of urgent care only.

By way of summary, hopefully the following list helps. This is applicable to all NHS patients and full details are contained within SDR 147:

Non - AGP routine care:

- examination and diagnostic investigations eg radiographs
- preventive care including fluoride applications
- periodontal treatments excluding use of powered scaling devices
- stabilisation fillings, eg using GI, etc but without using an AGP
- temporary crowns/bridges
- refixing crowns/bridges/inlays
- extractions
- new dentures
- denture repairs and addition
- splints/occlusal appliances
- orthodontic treatment

AGP urgent care:

- Extirpation of teeth - the most recent PSD guidance has advised that root canal treatments can be completed if it is in the patient's best interest. This also applied to teeth that have had pulp extirpations previously and where an AGP is not required for completion
- Urgent fillings - any material deemed clinically suitable can be used

Of course, all patients should be risk assessed and treated according to current guidelines. You may find the SDCEP website helpful for this: <https://www.sdcep.org.uk/>

As before, NHS patients have the option of having any treatment provided outwith the NHS providing they have been appropriately consented and this has been recorded. However, non-NHS treatment should also be limited to non-AGP work only unless it is required to address urgent care. This is as outlined by the CDO and his request that the spirit of the remobilisation plan is also followed for treatments delivered to patient's outwith the NHS.

➤ **Test & Protect**

I am circulating along with this Update a copy of information for GDS teams when engaging with Test & Protect, which I thought would be useful to you.

The purpose of the document is to provide understanding, advice and support to dental practices in the event they are contacted by Test & Protect if or when when a patient or staff member tests positive. This will assist in providing the necessary information to Test & Protect and Public Health in order for queries to be investigated and resolved in an efficient manner.

➤ **Use of Face Coverings**

The new restrictions with regard to the use of face coverings, announced by the Scottish Government come in to effect on Friday 9 October 2020. They stated that wearing of face coverings in indoor settings such as staff canteens and corridors is now mandatory.

Masks should be worn by staff when:

- Staff who work in a clinical or care area at all times.
- When providing direct care, staff should continue to wear appropriate PPE in line with the UK IPC remobilisation guidance and according to their own professional judgement.
- In other areas of health or social care where direct care is not being undertaken but where physical distancing isn't always possible (e.g. corridors, offices, call centres, shops and other public areas), face masks/coverings should be worn by all staff.
- Staff on arrival at work, when entering the premises or using services.
- Staff transiting to staff restaurants or going into changing rooms and if needing to queue in cafeteria.

Stay Safe and Look After One Another

Staff are NOT required to wear a face mask during mealtimes in staff restaurants or when in changing rooms. If working at a desk in open areas, there is no need to wear a facemask. If leaving the desk to any communal areas, a facemask must be worn.

Where face masks are not worn, carrying out 2 metre physical distancing is essential and consideration should be given to the space in which the communication can take place i.e. a well ventilated room.



Kind regards,
Lee Savarrio, Chief of Dentistry