Dear Colleagues,

**Restart of the Public Dental Service (PDS)**

* PDS Revised Clinical Offer Special care & Paediatrics (Appendix 1 & 2)
* PDS Paediatric Dental Needs Assessment Guidance (Appendix 3)
* Referral Criteria for Oral Surgery (Appendix 4)

***PDS Acceptance Criteria’s***

I am writing with an update on the restart of the Public Dental Service (PDS). Referral criteria for PDS, has been modified in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic as the PDS will have reduced capacity in the short to medium term. The criteria have been revised in conjunction with stakeholders including the Local Dental Committee (LDC). The restart of PDS services is in line with Scottish Government guidance. This will be a gradual process and it is unclear when we will be able to return to full capacity as patient and staff safety and wellbeing is foremost.

To ensure that the most clinically urgent patients are seen first, all patients currently undergoing treatment and patients on waiting lists will be carefully reviewed by the clinical teams and prioritised accordingly. This will result in some patients having to wait longer for treatment. In order to manage our existing patients and the demand moving forward we have reviewed and rewritten our referral acceptance criteria which are attached.

For all patients, where possible and appropriate, initial consultations will take place by telephone or video appointment (Attend Anywhere), in order to reduce face to face contacts. These are processes which have already been successfully used during COVID-19 by the clinical teams.

These new pathways form part of the Active Clinical Referral Triage (ACRT) process adopted within NHSGGC. This process means the clinician will have better quality information available to them regarding your patient's condition at triage and will allow decisions on the most appropriate method of providing care. Alternatively, the patient may be returned to your care with the relevant advice for your onward management

***PDS Paediatric Referrals for GA***

Before we accept a child for GA we are keen to ensure all available alternative treatment options have been fully explored. If you have explored all available treatment options and there are no viable alternatives for your paediatric patients please make a referral to PDS via SCI gateway. Please note, we currently have extended waiting times for GA.

As an alternative to GA and, in order to improve oral health the PDS will offer a range of enhanced preventative and clinical dental care including a range of behavioural management treatments. The purpose of this approach is ensuring children receive the care they need and are able to return to the GDP for their future dental care.

The SCI referral pathways for Paediatric PDS care will be amalgamate and only one pathway will be available. PDS staff will make decisions on the most appropriate method of providing care if deemed necessary or alternatively return the patient to your care with the relevant advice for your onward management.

***PDS Special Care Referrals***

*We plan to review and assess all Special Care referrals via attend Anywhere in the first instance. Face to Face care will be delivered when appropriate and safe.*

***Oral Surgery Referrals***

Referrals for Oral Surgery should be made by following the Secondary Care SCI referral pathway. Internal referral to Primary Care Oral Surgery service will be made where appropriate.