

Gateway ref: 16015



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Dear Colleague,

Contract Value Uplifts for 2011/2012

As part of the wider Government policy on public spending the Secretary of State indicated that the Doctors and Dentists Review Body would not be asked to make recommendations on dentists' pay for the financial years 2011/12 and 2012/2013. The Secretary of State indicated that officials would discuss these issues with representatives of the profession adopting the formula approach to expenses that had previously been used by the Review Body.

The Secretary of State also indicated that he expected the primary care sector to deliver the same 4% improvement in efficiency and productivity that was required from the rest of the NHS. The Department has been discussing with the British Dental Association proposals aimed at meeting the remit set by the Secretary of State.

There are two specific changes: Existing contract values will be increased by 0.5% backdated to 1 April and dentists will be expected to offer all patients best practice, preventive advice and treatment as set out in the Delivering Better Oral Health evidence toolkit and indicate on the FP17 form, or its equivalent electronic version, that they have done this. The toolkit has been distributed to all practices with an NHS contract over the last 2-3 years and can be accessed on line at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_102331.

We believe that this is a good strategic approach to improving efficiency as it reflects what is already best practice, and will advance the important cause of improving children's oral health, which is both a key concern of dentists, and a commitment of the coalition government.

The Department is keen that whilst we are moving towards the implementation of a new dental contract, following piloting and evaluation, that development of the existing contract should encourage a move away from a focus on treatment, and more towards prevention and maintenance of good oral health.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Cockcroft', written in a cursive style.

Barry Cockcroft

Chief Dental Officer for England