

E: NHSgeneraldentalservicesmailbox@gov.scot

8 June 2020

**Remobilisation of NHS Dental Services in Scotland:
- Preparations to Step Up into Phase 2**

Dear Colleague,

On the 20 May I wrote to you to describe the first steps for the remobilisation of NHS dental services in Scotland.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with additional information about the steps that we are taking to prepare dental practices to open. You may be aware that the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, Jeanne Freeman announced in Parliament on 2 June, as part of the Scottish Government preparations for the remobilisation of NHS services, that we are intending to reintroduce dental services on a phased basis over the course of this month.

This means dental practices will be able to see NHS patients for face-to-face consultation who are in need of urgent care, using non-aerosol generating procedures. The precise date will be confirmed following the next 3-weekly review of lockdown regulations on 18 June. I am aware that not all dental practices will be able to open at the same time as some practices may take longer to prepare. The start date is not to be considered a target – practices must be certain they can safely open before they do.

I am also taking the opportunity to update the naming of the dental phases, as per my letter of 20 May, to align with wider route map framework. This will ensure clarity going forward and is attached in the annex to this letter.

Preparations and Next Steps

Dental practices should prepare a single surgery in anticipation of opening to patients. SDCEP has developed a 'practice recovery toolkit', available at the following link:

<https://www.sdcep.org.uk/published-guidance/covid-19-practice-recovery/>

Practices are encouraged to work with their NHS Board and Dental Practice Adviser throughout the preparation process; practices will be required to certify to their NHS Board that they are fully compliant with current guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic. In some circumstances the NHS Board may wish to visit the practice before opening.

NHS Services Scotland have ensured adequate stocks of appropriate PPE through a central distribution system of PPE that dental practices may access via their NHS Board. Practices should contact the NHS Boards to discuss the local arrangements for the supply of PPE. Directors of Dentistry in each NHS Board have been advised to ensure a person from the dental team is available to provide a contact point and on-going support to practices.

In the meantime practices should continue to telephone triage patients according to the revised guidance included in my letter of 20 May. On opening, dental practices should refer all patients who require an urgent AGP to their local urgent dental care centre.

The intention is to publish a revised Statement of Dental Remuneration (SDR) shortly. This will include the list of treatments that dental contractors providing NHS dental services can provide under Phase 2 of the remobilisation plan. The purpose of this interim SDR is to record activity against the appropriate items of treatment. The NHS financial support measures that were provided to NHS dental contractors and NHS committed practices, as described in Memorandum to NHS: PCA(D)(2020)7, will remain in place during Phase 2 and that these measures are not dependent on the date of opening.

Finally, I need to impress on dentists and dental teams, not only the absolute necessity to ensure patient and staff safety as we move forward but also public health more generally. Transition to later recovery phases will be determined by taking a graduated risk-based approach to the type of care and treatment to be made available, the risk and level of transmission within the community as determined by the reproduction number "R" and other factors including the number of cases and wider control measures in place.

I wish you all the best as we move forward together.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Ferris". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Tom Ferris
Chief Dental Officer

Action	Scottish Govt. 'routemap' 21 May 2020
Practices closed apart from telephone triage. All urgent care from Urgent Dental Care Centres	Lockdown
Increase care offered at emergency dental hubs as practices prepare to open.	Phase 1
All dental practices open to see patients with urgent care needs. Urgent care centres provide urgent aerosol generating procedures.	Phase 2
All dental practices begin to see registered patients for non-aerosol routine care. Urgent care centres to provide aerosol generating procedures.	Phase 3
Limited introduction of AGPs to dental practices, this will be dependent on evidence of risk and possible mitigation.	Phase 4