

Dear Colleague

RECOVERY OF NHS DENTAL SERVICES: SUSTAINABILITY FUNDING

Summary

1. This letter advises NHS Boards and Practitioner Services of (i) funding to NHS practices for ventilation and electric speed adjusting hand pieces is extended to include a range of equipment; and (ii) an additional one-off sustainability payment that will be paid to qualifying NHS practices.

Capital Funding: Ventilation and Red Band Hand Pieces

2. NHS Boards should remind practices that there are still opportunities to apply for capital funding for ventilation improvement and speed adjusting electric speed adjusting hand pieces. The intention of the Government is to fully deploy all the NHS funding available by allowing NHS practices to apply for capital funding to meet general repairs and improvements.

One-Off Sustainability Payment

3. The Scottish Government also intends to make a one-off revenue payment to qualifying NHS practices. This funding is being provided to meet the costs of a Legionella Risk Assessment (LRA), and for example to provide additional NHS hygienist and nurse sessions, and extra hours provision. NHS practices are being asked to exercise discretion to manage this payment across each of these priorities.

7 March 2022

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS
Boards

Director, Practitioner
Services

For information

Chief Executive,
NHS National Services
Scotland

Chief Executive,
NHS Education for Scotland

Directors of Dentistry

Enquiries to:

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Actions for NHS Boards

4. NHS Boards should ensure that:

- they urgently issue the Memorandum to this letter to all NHS dentists and NHS dental bodies corporate on their dental lists;
- they have read and are aware of the arrangements for NHS dental practices in the attached Memorandum;
- further advice to Boards will follow on the precise mechanism of the funding for other dental equipment (at this juncture we are just trying to gather indicative expressions of interest).

Actions for Practitioner Services

5. This Memorandum advises NHS dental practices about the arrangements for capital funding (ventilation and electric speed adjusting hand pieces), which requires no action for Practitioner Services.
6. This Memorandum also advises NHS dental practices of a one-off revenue sustainability payment:

Existing NHS Practices with a 2019/20 Baseline and currently in receipt of GDPA

- Make a one off payment to existing NHS practices with a 2019/20 baseline and currently in receipt of GDPA, and have an average of at least 500 patients per dentist as at 28 February 2022;
- The basis of the payment calculation for each NHS practice will be the individual practice's GDPA share of the total value of GDPA in 2019/20 expressed as a percentage applied to the £5m;

New NHS Practices with no 2019/20 Baseline Position and not in receipt of GDPA

- Only new NHS practices that presently have a minimum of 500 NHS patients per dentist should be included in this payment.
- The payments to individual NHS practices to be based on those payments made to existing NHS practices with a 2019/20 baseline with similarly-sized NHS patient lists.

Yours sincerely



TOM FERRIS
Chief Dental Officer

DENTISTS/DENTAL BODIES CORPORATE
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES

- i. FUNDING SUPPORT FOR VENTILATION AND ELECTRIC SPEED ADJUSTING HAND PIECES/OTHER EQUIPMENT; NOTIFICATIONS OF INTEREST
- ii. ONE-OFF SUSTAINABILITY PAYMENT

- i. FUNDING SUPPORT FOR VENTILATION AND ELECTRIC SPEED ADJUSTING HAND PIECES/OTHER EQUIPMENT; NOTIFICATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Scottish Government has provided £5m of funding for ventilation improvements and £7.5m for the purchase of new speed adjusting hand pieces to support NHS dental services recovery during the pandemic. The arrangements for applying for this funding may be found PCA(D)(2021)(3) and PCA(D)(2021)(6) respectively.

2. All dental practices are strongly encouraged to investigate dental surgery ventilation and the modifications that may be necessary to meet the requirements of current UK healthcare guidance and legislation. Further information on requirements can be found at: <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/publications/ventilation-for-healthcare-premises-shtm-03-01/>.

3. NHS Practices should be aware that funding is still available to 30 June 2022 under these schemes. **Practices are now advised to make a notification of interest to their Board before 31 March 2022.**

Other Equipment

4. We are now taking the opportunity to allow this funding to be used for a range of equipment. There has been an increased burden of additional cleaning of dental equipment and challenges in ongoing maintenance due to reduced staffing levels experienced by some dental equipment maintenance providers. It is acknowledged that this may have shortened the effective and safe service life of critical dental equipment. The following is an illustrative list of those items that may be included but is not exhaustive:

- Dental Chair
- Dental Operating Light
- Cuspidor/Spittoon
- Dental Suction
- Dental Compressor
- Dental Xray Unit

5. All practices, irrespective of previous ventilation and electric speed adjusting hand piece funding, can apply for funding for other equipment. Notifications of interest should describe your intentions at this stage and do not need to include quotes. The arrangements of the scheme will be the same as for ventilation and electric speed adjusting hand pieces, and will be described in due course.

ii. ONE-OFF SUSTAINABILITY PAYMENT

6. The Scottish Government is allocating a further £5 million through a one-off revenue payment to qualifying NHS practices. This funding is being provided to meet the costs of a Legionella Risk Assessment (LRA), for additional hygienist and nurse sessions, and extra out of hours provision. While NHS practices will have the discretion to manage their funding across each of these areas, practices that have presently not carried out a Legionella Risk Assessment should prioritise this.

7. The £5m one-off sustainability NHS payment is being offered to NHS practices to provide an additional financial support as the sector moves out from the financial support “top-up” emergency payment regime from 1 April 2022. The payment to each NHS dental practice will be calculated as the percentage share of the practice’s 2019/20 (baseline) GDPA of the total value of the 2019/20 (baseline) GDPA made to all practices in Scotland. This percentage share will then be applied to £5m to calculate the payment to each individual NHS practice.

8. The payment will apply to all existing NHS practices, with a 2019/20 baseline and currently in receipt of GDPA, and have an average of at least 500 patients per dentist as at 28 February 2022.

New Practices

9. New NHS practices that do not have a 2019/20 baseline position or in receipt of financial support will be included in this payment, providing they have at present a minimum of 500 NHS patients per dentist. The calculation for new NHS practices will be based on those payments made to existing practices with a 2019/20 baseline using their GDPA protection payment with similarly-sized NHS patient lists.

Orthodontic-only Practices

10. Orthodontic-only practices that are currently in receipt of GDPA will also be included in this payment.

Payment Arrangements for the One-Off Sustainability Payment

11. This will be paid automatically to practices in the March-paid April 2022 payment schedule.

Opting-Out of the One-Off Sustainability Payment

12. **Practices may also opt-out from this funding through emailing: nss.psd-dental-payments-covid19@nhs.scot with the subject header ‘OPT OUT’ by 31 March 2022.**

13. Practices should keep appropriate records and/or receipts, as Health Boards will be asked to undertake random sampling on associated spend with this funding for quality and monitoring purposes.

Enquiries

Any enquiries arising from this memorandum should be taken up with your NHS Board.

Primary Care Directorate, 7 March 2022