

COVID-19

Lee Savarrio - Chief of Dentistry Update (30-3-2020)

Following a hectic week, I hope you all managed to have some down time over the weekend and whilst taking into account social distancing, got out for some fresh air.

Our GDS colleagues in the GGEDS out of hours service have also been working hard last week and over the weekend this worked well, with no real issues being highlighted. Thank you to all who staffed and supported this.

There are no significant changes to my update on Friday, the pathways allowing patients access to emergency dental care is working well.

We have added information to the Boards external website for patients and are currently working on a self help information sheet for patients.

I have attached documents from the British Endodontic Society which recaps diagnosing and managing pain and infection of endodontic origin with the new AAA regime being applied throughout primary care dental services at the moment (BES AAA Document). In addition there is a description for colleagues undertaking endodontic emergency treatment at either at GDH and in our PDS hubs of a protocol that can be used/modified as required (BES Emergency Protocol).

GDS

Attached is a letter from the Chief Dental Officer regarding revised funding arrangements with detailed PCA to follow.

While we have capacity, we are in the process of making contact with practices to arrange to pick up any supplies/PPE you have offered. Once again my thanks for these, although we do not need them straight away, they will be stored for the coming weeks ahead.

Any practices with PPE and implant kits including surgical gowns please contact GDSadmin@ggc.scot.nhs.uk with the subject as PPE and include the following details along with your practice address and mobile number

Nitrile Gloves	No.	Face Masks	No.	Others	No.
XS		Type II		Surgical/implant gowns/kits	
S		Type IIr		Alcohol wipes	
M		FFP1		Detergent wipes	
L		FFP2		Visor shields	
XL		FFP3		Hand sanitiser	

The first GDP is attending RAH today for orientation to allow them to support the PDS team with triaging. We hope to be contacting some of you over the next few days to arrange some orientation for various sites and allocating duties as patient flow through various sites is established and ramps up.

Stay Safe and Look After One Another

We have received confirmation today that an NHS temporary hospital at the SEC Events Campus has been given the green light, this may provide a different way for colleagues who have already indicated their willingness to volunteer.

As always we continue to rely on colleagues within GDS to ensure their telephone triage is as robust as possible. The use of telephone triage and AAA is vital to ensure we maintain social distancing for patients as well as our staff wherever possible. I appreciate that as a dental professional, not to see your patients in person, goes against everything you have been taught, but it will have a significant impact in reducing the spread of the virus.

Please continue to monitor your practice NHS mail account daily. We are now also issuing all communications to individual NHS.net accounts via our LDC colleagues.

PDS

We appreciate that there have been some minor issues with accessing the PDS Special Care Hub via the contact number provided. We are looking to extend PDS clinical triage to other locations and hope to have this operational within the next few days. This will not involve a change in contact number, only in the internal process for dealing with the referral.

HDS/ HI

I would like to acknowledge colleagues within Oral Medicine and Oral Health Improvement who have already been deployed to work within acute hospitals and moving forward we will look to extend this to other staff groups.

Lee Savarrio, Chief of Dentistry