

COVID-19

Lee Savarrio - Chief of Dentistry Update (3-4-2020)

Well, we have come to the end of another very busy week. My thanks again for all your hard work. The levels of co-operation and team work and sheer willingness to help and get things done is really quite overwhelming.

- Thank you to everyone who responded to the call for volunteers to support telephone triage with NHS24. The initial request was for 10 dentists; we received around 40. We have passed the names and contact details of this first cohort to colleagues at NHS24 who will contact you directly. All other notes of interest have been logged and if further assistance is required we will forward your contact details.
- We have prepared the attached 'self help' information for patients, which will be placed on our external website to which you might wish to direct patients.
- When you are telephone triaging patients can you please ensure that a record of the discussion and justification for outcome is documented within the clinical records.
- You will recall that we previously circulated the GDS Triage document. The feedback from practices and the PDS Special Care Hub is that this has worked well. In light of the updated SDCEP Guidance on Managing Acute Dental Problems earlier this week, we have taken the opportunity to meld these two documents. Please find attached a version that is **specific to NHS GGC and only for the period of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

We are comfortable that documents can be shared between colleagues/practices but if this is done **outwith** NHS GGC, those practices **should not** contact NHSGGC PDS Special Care Hub.

- We have been working closely with colleagues in pharmacy to develop interim arrangements for the issuing of dental prescriptions. Attached is a Standard Operating Procedure for this new process and the contact details for community pharmacies in GG&C. Again the contact list is for personal use and not for wider circulation.
- I would like to thank all PDS staff for embracing the challenges of establishing new pathways and adapting to new ways of working so quickly and efficiently. This is often at less than a week's notice responding to national advice and in the midst of social distancing meaning colleague support is not as we would normally like.
- We are continuing to refine the PDS triage flowchart for the management of patients during COVID. I realise that this has taken some time but we want to ensure that the final document is as robust as it can be and work seamlessly with GDS and HDS pathways.
- We are also finalising the Standard Operating Procedure and testing and training for "Attend Anywhere" for both PDS and HDS to allow it to become operational early next week.

Stay Safe and Look After One Another

- Below are the links to the updated guidance issued yesterday on PPE. I understand that AGPs are still being reviewed.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>

<https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-advice-for-dental-teams/>

Have a peaceful weekend,

Lee Savarrio, Chief of Dentistry