

COVID-19

Lee Savarrio - Chief of Dentistry Update (15-4-2020)

I have mentioned several times in my updates about us all having to adapt to new ways of working during these difficult times. I appreciate that for some colleagues this is challenging when we are not undertaking our traditional roles and am grateful to the great majority who have embraced the change

In the current pandemic we need to move beyond our GDS, PDS, HDS and GGCEDS traditional boundaries and work together as a single dental team to provide the best possible care possible for our patients. I know that if we continue to work this way, we can cope with anything that may lie ahead of us.

- The CDO is currently looking at setting up arrangements to uplift clinical waste from practices and I will be in touch with more information about this as soon as it is available.
- As you know, due to the constantly changing situation, we have continually reviewed and adapted our processes as the need arises and in response to user feedback. I mentioned yesterday there were a couple of issues over the weekend regarding telephone access to the PDS Special Care Hub. We are therefore currently looking at the possibility of a clinical triage form for GDS / PDS use to allow us to the option to email to the Hub, thus hopefully streamlining the process and the patient pathway. This is still in the early stages but the intention is to have this additional referral mechanism operational for GDPs before the next public holiday.
- We now have GDS colleagues working at various sites alongside PDS staff to triage patients which have been referred via the PDS Special Care Hub. This collaborative approach is working well.
- I have attached a helpful poster produced by the BDA providing advice on Staying Safe at Urgent Care Centres. The BDA has kindly agreed to it being shared for those that haven't already seen it via other channels.
- I would like to thank our GDS colleagues and dental laboratories who rallied to our call for PPE. We are working to ensure that these supplies are put to good use either within oral health or across the wider NHSGG&C family.

Stay Safe
Lee Savarrio, Chief of Dentistry